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AND WEEKLY NEWS.

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NOTICE.

The production of The Spiritual Times and Weekly News *necessarily involves considerable expense. The Proprietors, at the outset, have contemplated a monetary loss, but still have flattered themselves with the idea that some few earnest and liberal adherents to the spiritual cause will hail the appearance of an independent weekly organ such as we this week present, and would probably feel pleasure in subscribing towards its maintenance. When it is considered that pig-headed scepticism is everywhere in England allied, with its cloven foot, to crush out all spiritual truth from the universe, our battle for success must necessarily be a hard one,. Let us hope that friends will aid us with sympathy and money, and enable us to fight on until we establish our paper on self-supporting principles. All donations towards our Propagandist fund will be duly acknowledged, and appropriated to the legitimate purpose of extending our means of intercourse with the world at large.*

Every subscriber interested in our success, if he can do nothing else, will accomplish something by inducing his friends and acquaintances to subscribe for The Spiritual Times and Weekly News; *thus, by perseverance and unanimity of purpose, we hope clear the way for a more improved public spiritual tone of mind than in this early stage has found favor in this country.*

All communications intended for insertion must be accompanied with the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

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The Spiritual Times

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1864.

—o—

OUR OPENING ADDRESS.

On making a first bow in the presence of personages of high distinction, we generally feel a little embarrassed, and endeavour, nevertheless, to make the best of it by *bowing* as politely as possible. The courtesy of etiquette is a law unto itself, and has ever a power in social life. Woe to those who would seek to gain the blessings of good society without a due regard for the laws that govern and sustain it.

With a full consciousness of this fact we present *The Spiritual Times and Weekly News* to the public with an embarrassed *bow*, but yet with a confident satisfaction.

It is a source of gratification to know that we enter on open ground, and can scarcely be accused of possessing envious motives, since there is no competitor in the field.

The Spiritual question in England has assumed an important shape during the past seven years, and although it has been almost invariably pooh-poohed! by the Scientific and Materialistic Solons, and leaders of the Press and the Pulpit, it has gradually grown into a power.

There has been a party silently forming favourable to Spiritualism, but yet not, except in two instances, have any Spiritual weeklies or monthlies found existence. The "Spiritual Telegraph," a small journal published in Yorkshire, and carried on under peculiar and stubborn difficulties, was supplemented and succeeded by "The Spiritual Magazine," which is now issued monthly, and which contains a mass of well-digested matter. "The Spiritual Times" is the only weekly organ now devoted to Spiritualism in England. It is confidently hoped that its inauguration may be welcomed, and its stability ensured.

When it is considered that the Press generally ignores the spiritual facts, and that a *seance* is voted by the majority of learned *ignoramuses* as evidence of insanity,—that charlatanism or the Devil has to bear the difficulties of the whole spiritual subject,—it must be admitted that Spiritualists, at least, are interested in maintaining a weekly organ, which shall be a faithful record of the Spiritualism of the times, and which shall open the way to a fair and full discussion of the merits and demerits of the subject.

We shall give, as far as our space will admit, opportunity for persons of opposing views to put them forth, holding ourselves irresponsible for the special opinions of our contributors.

Believing that Spiritualism is a great and invaluable truth, we shall, from time to time, offer testimony in its favour; but we likewise feel it our duty, when practicable, to treat on other progressive topics. Thus we may aid, in some small degree, to clear the way for, universal truth.

Our pathway is difficult, but it is, nevertheless, defined. We have no *policy-views* which will impede the free expression of our thoughts, therefore we shall simply speak out on all questions that may come uppermost. Our readers may, therefore, expect occasional remarks that may not be considered *quite* orthodox, but which, if true, shall be spoken by us, no matter who shall cry "halt," or whose pet dogmatisms may suffer.

We prefer speaking the truth to a few in preference to publishing a lie to many. Our years of life-experience have not passed without teaching us that it is easier to walk over smooth than over rough ground; but still it is harder for the soul, when the feet choose the smooth ground, under the influence of idleness.

The pathway of duty lies before us,—it is hilly and full of hard ruts; a smoother path will lead us from the truth; we must needs press on, the more, the more difficult the way.

If our readers will only cheer us on with their kind influence and encouragement, we shall find a consolation and a satisfaction in the pursuit of our purpose.

We propose introducing well-authenticated cases of Hauntings, Apparitions, &c., and shall be thankful for information which will enable us to give the most recent and best attested cases.

With a view to make our paper serve the double purpose of reflecting the general political and social events, and the progressive spirit of Spiritualism and other advancing topics, it is presented in its present form. By and bye, should our efforts be appreciated and approved, we may be pleased to take advantage of suggestions from friends, and make the spiritual element even more prominent.

Our purpose is now somewhat made clear—we prefer allowing our future to speak for us, instead of subjecting ourselves to a list of promises which may, like pie-crust, soon be broken.

ORIGIN OF MODERN SPIRIT MANIFESTATIONS.

We deem it not inappropriate to present our readers with Robert Dale Owen's graphic account of the circumstances under which the phenomena were first developed:—

THE HYDESVILLE DWELLING-HOUSE—DISTURBANCES IN WESTERN NEW YORK, 1848.

There stands, not far from the town of Newark, in the county of Wayne and State of New York, a wooden dwelling—one of a cluster of small houses like itself, scarcely meriting the title of a village, but known under the name of Hydesville; being so called after Dr. Hyde, an old settler, whose son is the proprietor of the house in question. It is a story and a half high, fronting south; the lower floor consisting, in 1848, of two moderate-sized rooms, opening into each other; east of these a bed-room, opening into the sitting-room, and a buttery opening into the same room; together with a stairway (between the bed-room and buttery), leading from the sitting-room up to the half-story above, and from the buttery down to the cellar.

This humble dwelling had been selected as a temporary residence, during the erection of another house in the country, by Mr. John D. Fox.

The Fox family were reputable farmers, members of the Methodist Church, in good standing, and much respected by their neighbours as honest, upright people. Mr. Fox's ancestors were Germans, the name being originally *Voss;* but both he and Mrs. Fox were native born. In Mrs. Fox's family, French by origin and Rutan by name, several Individuals had evinced the power of second sight—her maternal grandmother, whose maiden name was Margaret Ackerman, and who resided at Long Island, among the number. She had, frequently, perceptions of funerals before they occurred, and was wont to follow these phantom processions to the grave as if they were material.

Mrs. Fox's sister also, Mrs. Elizabeth Higgins, had similar power. On one occasion, in the year 1823, the two sisters, then residing in New York, proposed to go to Sodus by canal. But Elizabeth said one morning, "We shall not make this trip by water." "Why so?" her sister asked. "Because I dreamed last night that we travelled by land, and there was a strange lady with us. In my dream, too, I thought we came to Mott's tavern, in the Beech woods, and that they could not admit us, because Mrs. Mott lay dying in the house. I know it will all come true." "Very unlikely, indeed," replied her sister; "for last year when we passed there, Mr. Mott's wife lay dead in the house." "You will see. He must have married again; and he will lose his second wife." Every particular came to pass as Mrs. Higgins had predicted. Mrs. Johnson, a stranger, whom at the time of the dream they had not seen, *did* go with them, they made the journey on land, and were refused admittance into Mott's tavern, for the very cause assigned in Mrs. Higgins's dream.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox had six children, of whom the two youngest were staying with them, when, on the 11th of December, 1847, they removed into the house I have described. The children were both girls: Margaret, then twelve years old, and Kate, nine.

Soon after they had taken up their residence in the dwelling referred to, they began to think it was a very noisy house; but this was attributed to rats and mice. During the next month, however (January, 1848), the noise began to assume the character of slight knockings heard at night in the bed-room; sometimes appearing to sound in the cellar beneath. At first Mrs. Fox sought to persuade herself this might be but the hammering of a shoemaker, in a house hard by, sitting up late at work. But further observation showed that the sounds whencesoever proceeding, originated in the house; for not only did the knockings gradually become more distinct, and not only were they heard first in one part of the house, then in another, but the family finally remarked that these raps, even when not very loud, often caused a motion, tremulous rather than a sudden jar, of the bedsteads and chairs—sometimes of the house, a motion which was quite perceptible to the touch when a hand was laid on the chairs, which was sometimes sensibly felt at night in the slightly oscillating motion of the bed, which was occasionally perceived as a sort of vibration even when standing on the floor.

After a time, also, the noises varied in their character, sounding occasionally like distinct footfalls in the different rooms.

Nor where the disturbances, after a month or two had passed, confined to sounds. Once something heavy, as a dog, seemed to lie at the feet of the children; but it was gone before the mother could come to their aid. Another time (this was late in March) Kate felt as if a cold hand was on her face. Occasionally, too, the bed-clothes were pulled during the night. Finally, chairs were moved from their places. So, on one occasion, was the dining-table.

The disturbances, which had been limited to occasional knockings throughout February and the early part of March, gradually increased, towards the close of the latter month, in loudness and frequency, so seriously as to break the rest of the family. Mr. Fox and his wife got up night after night, lit a candle, and thoroughly searched every nook and corner of the house, but without any result. They discovered nothing. When the raps came on a door, Mr. Fox would stand, ready to open the moment they were repeated. But this expedient, too, proved unavailing. Though he opened the door on the instant, there was no one to be seen. Nor did he or Mrs. Fox ever obtain the slightest clue to the cause of these disturbances.

The only circumstance which seemed to suggest the possibility of trickery or of mistake was, that these various unexplained occurrences never happened in daylight.

And thus, notwithstanding the strangeness of the thing, when morning came they began to think it must have been but the fancy of the night. Not being given to superstition, they clung, throughout several weeks of annoyance, to the idea that some natural explanation of these seeming accidents would at last appear. Nor did they abandon this hope till the night of Friday, the 31st of March, 1848.

The day had been cold and stormy, with snow on the ground. In the course of the afternoon, a son, David, came to visit them from his farm, about three miles distant. His mother then first recounted to him the particulars of the annoyances they had endured; for till now they had been little disposed to communicate these to any one. He heard her with a smile. "Well, mother," he said, "I advise you not to say a word to the neighbours about it. When you find it out, it will be one of the simplest things in the world." And in that belief he returned home.

Wearied out by a succession of sleepless nights and of fruitless attempts to penetrate the mystery, the Fox family retired on that Friday evening very early to rest, hoping for a respite from the disturbances that harassed them. But they were doomed to disappointment.

(To be continued in our next.)

OBITUARY.

On Sunday morning, the 24th of January, 1864, passed away from the earth-life, Mr. William Stockton Cox, of Jermyn-street, London. The deceased was a devoted and tried friend of Spiritualism. He had been for many years an exemplary follower of Robert Owen, and always proved himself an unflinching friend to those who were in need of assistance and sympathy in the cause of unpopular truth. Spiritualism has sustained a loss in Mr. Cox its adherents may find it difficult to fully estimate.

MANIFESTATIONS OF SPITIT POWER.

Mr. Spear, a remarkable medium from America, has taken rooms at 44, Gower-place, Euston-square, London. Under favorable conditions he undertakes to prescribe for disease of body and inharmony of mind. He reads character, under spirit-impression, with marvellous clearness and quickness. We lately paid him a visit, and were not a little astounded at the delineation he gave of ourselves. He is a tall, quiet man, with a profusion of white beard, and has all the characteristics of a man of seriousness and high integrity. It is with much pleasure we recommend him to our friends, and state that all communications addressed to Mr. Spear, to arrange for visits to him, or to desire him to make appointments out, will be promptly attended to.

Mr. J. B. Conklin, the American Medium, gives *séances* at his rooms, 25, Cecil-street, Strand. We lately paid him a visit, and feel much pleasure in commending him to our readers. He is an intelligent, straight-forward man, and, under fair conditions, is a medium of an extraordinary character.

Mrs. Welton, the well-known Medical Clairvoyante, still continues to examine cases, and give diagnoses of disease.—13, Grafton-street, Fitzroy-square.

WILLIAM HOWITT'S DEFENCE OF SPIRITUALISM.

William Howitt has written a long and vigorous letter to the *Glasgow Daily Herald*, dated Feby. 1st, 1864, in reply to a certain J. B., who, after visiting Mrs. Marshall, in the same paper informed the public that he had "found it all out!" We regret our want of space, or we would gladly give our readers Mr. Howitt's letter in *extenso*, which, throughout, is both argumentative and full of solid facts. The writer sets about his task with Vulcan instincts, and his blows strike home, like a Nasmyth hammer, with crushing effect. We present the latter portion of the letter:—

"I have studied this subject, and practically examined it these seven years, and I know much cleverer men who have done this much longer, and that, where there was no paid medium suffered to enter. I do not owe my knowledge to a single visit to Mrs. Marshall, made with a lie in my mouth, but to what I have seen amongst the able, the learned, and the good. I have seen plenty of these grasshopper observers, who, at a single spring and jerk, find out everything; and a good many like Professor Taylor, who for so many years has been making his fun at the Colosseum and in Regent-street out of Spiritualism, suddenly, like him, have it broke out ten thousand strong in their own families, and, as he has now done, confess their folly. My conviction of the matter, then, is this. For the last two centuries there has been a tendency among philosophers, and for the last century a most determined tendency to ignore, reason away, and trample down the best half of the universe, the universe of spirit. No doubt these gentlemen had their reasons for their conduct. It was much more agreeable to them to have no apparition of a spirit-throne and future judgment haunting them. The Hobbs and Tindals, Humes, Voltaires, and Volneys succeeded to a marvel. They not only destroyed faith in spirit and spirit action in the monsters of the French Revolution, but in the churches. They have not only by the aid of Kants, Hegels, Paulases, and Strausses, materialised nearly the whole mind of Germany, France, and Spain, but they have gradually infected by the creeping virus the universities & churches of Great Britain. They have reduced Christianity in the pulpit [illegible] to as great a likeness to the Christianity of the New Testament as a dead broomstick is to a grand and bowing pine tree. Try the professed Christianity of to-day by any principle of the Gospel—by its faith, by its love, by its humility, and self-renunciation. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Look now through Europe for this proof of Christianity of the nearly nineteen centuries of possession, and you see it from one end to the other armed to the teeth—every man against his neighbour. "Thou shalt not kill;" and the most prominent feature of the age is the enthusiasm of its mechanic genius at work to invent new machines for your neighbour's destruction—machines only fit to be named in the halls of Pandemonium. "He that will be greatest amongst you, let him be the servant of all;" and the whitewashed Paganism of to-day, calling itself Christianity, arrays itself in all sorts of frippery titles, in every species of feudal disguises and nicknames, and loves greeting in the market places; and that men should worship one another, not for their love to one another, but for their monopolies of the good things of God's world. We see congregations walking to church and chapels in goodliest silks and fine clothes, and during the rest of the week bent on piling up wealth by any means, as if this were the lasting and the other the mere passing world. And all the time, around these strange Christians, Christ's own aristocracy—the poor—are neither properly fed, nor housed, nor clothed, as if He had never said "Inasmuch as ye did it not to these, ye did it not to me." Under this frightful assumption of the name without the substance of Christianity lies the practical atheism of materialism. And it must be confessed that it is a very mortifying thing to the learned and philosophical of the age, that when they thought that they had completely put down spiritual faith, and branded it with the bugbear name of superstition, it should start up again like the unaccountable poodle in the study of Faust, and swell itself into an elephant. When they thought that they had cut off this planet from all the rolling worlds around it; from the spirit-life that breathes and burns through all space, and sent the earth on its circuit through the skies, a mere spinning clod of dirt, into which they could dig and carve, and mechanise at pleasure, tables should begin to move, chairs to dance, and ghosts to rap around them. How ridiculous! they exclaim. Exactly so. It is most ridiculous that the finest theories and proudest assumptions of the materialists should not be able to stand against a few antics of their own furniture!

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" But let all men look to it. The good did come out of Nazareth, and will come out of the Nazareth of Spiritualism again. It is not merely table-moving and rapping that are afloat amongst us, but the whole system of theology is undergoing a revolution. It is not only that spirits and the visits of spirits are again acknowledged, but the whole process by which spirits must be purified and advanced from carnalism onwards, through the mid spirit-region, towards the central heaven of God, is being taught by them. Men learn, by direct revelation, that the souls of the so-called dead are, and are around them, but they feel in that their own immortality and responsibility. They learn that by no death-bed hocus-pocus can a sinner be converted to a saint, but that his moral condition will fix him by an attraction stronger than that of gravity into his exact place in the invisible world, from which nothing but the blood of Christ, and the thorough purgation of his spiritual power, can enable him even to breathe the purer atmosphere of the higher heavens; that a whole life of crime or sensuality here will require a whole life of penitence and purgation there. The life of the inner world is thus brought home out of the vagueness of modern theology into a real, stern, ever present fact; awful to the disputable, but cheering and inspiriting to the love of God. That, sir, is Spiritualism, which may begin just at the point to which materialism has led us—in matter, but will end—if followed faithfully, in that vital Christianity which has been so long abandoned for a Pagan sham.

"It is not my intention to enter into any controversy with those to whom the first faint glimpse of these things is just coming in Scotland. To experienced Spiritualists their reasonings are the mere talk of children. But I beg the "B.'s" and "C.'s" to ponder on these remarks a little, and to be assured that they have yet far to travel ere they have 'found it all out.'

[We hope shortly to present our readers with Mr. Howitt's poetical reply to the Rev. Mr. Nangle, of Skreen. *Ed. S. T.*]

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Spiritual Times.

SIR,—The possibility of intercourse with the World of Spirits in the present age is not now a question of doubt or speculation, it is proved to be a fact, established by the living testimony and experience of millions of intelligent human beings; neither is the evidence obtained only from one class, nation, sect, or creed, but from all. I would therefore ask, if such an overwhelming amount of testimony amongst us is not sufficient to prove a fact, what is the use of testimony? and what becomes of the Bible and the Christian religion?

The most extraordinary fact, to my mind, is, that persons calling themselves Christians can deny the truth of the above statement, seeing that the Christian religion especially is based upon a spiritual foundation, and that spiritual manifestations run like a thread throughout its pages.

When Spirits in the present day give us unmistakeable evidence of their presence by test communications (which are of constant occurrence), what ought to be done with them? Should we deny them, and prove ourselves liars? However much others may do it, there is one who will not, and who believes that those who do it are too low in the scale of humanity to merit the love of truthful minds in the body, or of those in the spirit.

Many self-styled Christians profess to believe all that the Bible contains, at least, all that the Gospels narrate (which Gospels rest on the written testimony of scarcely a dozen men, nearly nineteen centuries ago), yet reject the evidence of thousands of living witnesses in the present day, who confirm that testimony, and affirm that Spirit manifestations still continue. Is this consistent? and does it not prove that the so-called Christian Church resembles the state of the Jewish Church in the Saviour's time, which adhered to the letter and not the spirit, and subscribed to dogmas and articles of belief once a week, and that frequently, without understanding them. Such is not vital Christianity, but the dead formula of creed and doctrine.

The declaration has gone forth, "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." Reject not this privilege, but let all who would be free seek for themselves, and the light of truth will enable them to escape from the dominion of those "who teach for doctrine the commandments of men."

London, March 1st, 1864. H. B.

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TWO SPIRITUAL VISITS.

To the Editor of the Spiritual Times.

SIR,—Having been requested to furnish you with the particulars of a recent visit made by a spirit to a friend in the flesh, I do so for your first number.

I may mention that but a few weeks since I had the misfortune to lose a dear and aged relative, who herself did not believe in spirit manifestations. She died quietly and calmly, early in January, in [illegible] residence about [illegible] reside much further to the west. On the evening of her death an old friend of my relative, residing close to my house, was retiring to rest, and on turning towards the bed saw clearly, for some time, the form of my relative lying on the bed. She became alarmed, and approached it. You will kindly understand that she also was a sceptic, and quite disposed to doubt the possibility of such appearances. She roused her husband—also a great sceptic—and bade him rise, as she dared not disturb the figure which she distinctly saw lying, with a peculiar shawl round the head and shoulders.

I should mention that this was some hours after the lady's actual departure; she died at 7·45 p.m., and this appearance took place about 10·30 on the same night.

After gazing on it both husband and wife saw it fall away, and therefore the wife concluded that her old friend was dead. On making inquiry of another relative of mine, in whose arms my aged relative died, she particularly mentioned the grey Paisley shawl, of which she could not have known anything. This shawl was round the shoulders of the deceased lady, as seen, and the whole of the apparition took place when the lady who saw it was wide-awake. The two ladies were with a fire and candle in her chamber; both advanced in years, and entertained a sincere attachment for each other, though age and infirmity had kept them asunder for a great period of time. There was every reason to suppose that my relative's attachment led her to show herself thus to the old friend of so long a time, and the fact of her scepticism may have led to the appearance. I may mention also, that on the night of her death, I myself felt a singular over-shadowing of the mind, of strange solemnity, though there was no reason to fear any immediate catastrophe. I was quite alone, and had been spending the evening in reading and writing, as is my wont. The next morning a message came from the kind friend to know if I had had any news, but my well-known and avowed opinions prevented any mention of this to me, and I did not hear of it for days afterwards, when it came out.

The other case I wish to name was told me by the son of the person to whom it occurred, in the room in the dull street named Bury St. James's, where the event happened, at five o'clock in the morning. The old lady who saw it kept a quiet boarding-house before the days of latch-keys. On the second floor resided an Irish member of Parliament; on the first floor an old colonel, and the rest of the house was inhabited by the lady and her two grown-up children, son, and daughter. The time was June, and the sun was shining down into the room through a broad window, under which was a sofa, [with the head towards the door. Mrs. T. was lying there, awaiting the M.P.'s return, and anxious to sleep. The clock of St. James's Church had just struck 5 a.m., when she heard a noise; the slowly opening door of the room creaked, and as she looked round she saw a man in his shirt come in, with a red nightcap and peculiar border; his face was averted, and he went out immediately, *leaving* the door open, which had previously been closed. Mrs. T. thought one of the lodgers had missed his way, and the Irish M.P. arriving immediately afterwards she went to bed. But the red nightcap puzzled her—who had red nightcaps in the house? She woke her daughter, who said the colonel had no such thing, she knew. The M.P. was out; what could it be?

Now in Jermyn-street, hard by, lived her uncle and two aunts. The uncle was a jolly old soul, who loved his bottle, and was apoplectic. Good living brought him his death warrant, and at seven in the morning a furious ringing at Mrs. T.'s bell announced the end of the old gentleman, very suddenly. She went to Jermyn-treet. "When did he die?" was a natural inquiry. "As the clock struck five," was the reply; "we thought it useless to disturb you, as we knew that you would have had but little rest." "Five o'clock—hum! hum! and *pray had he a red nightcap with a queer border?*" "How could you know it; it was always a profound secret, as we disliked it so much!" "Can I see him?" "Yes." And on the head of the deceased there still remained, by some accident, the red nightcap of the apparition. I mention these two things together from the features of resemblance they present in the details of the shawl and nightcap.

To philosophers I leave the explanation. I only vouch for the truth of both stories, which, hitherto unpublished, are heartily at your disposition.

I am, truly yours,
K. R. H. MACKENZIE.

London, February 29th, 1864.

The following letter was forwarded to the *Sussex Express*, but was not inserted:—

To the Editor of the Sussex Express.

SIR,—I have no desire to intrude the spirit-communications I am occasionally favored with upon the notice of the public, but there are times when that which is intended for the sanctity of one's own bosom may, in the interests of truth, be with advantage disclosed to the world.

With this feeling I ask you, after the correspondence that has taken place in your columns on the subject of Spiritualism, to give insertion to the following communications I have received from the spirit of a clergyman, who passed from earth last summer, and who, a short time before, in consequence of some conversation I had with him, gave me the Rev. Mr. Nangle's pamphlet, with these words: "There, that will show you where it comes from."

The communications are as follow:—"*While on the earth I tried to please my Saviour: I have won my crown: therefore I trust you will follow your Lord and Saviour, and if you do, you will win a crown of glory as I have.*"

The communication was then signed; and then, after a pause, these remarkable words came out:—"*God sent me to deliver this message.*"

I then put a question with a view to ascertain the nature of the liberty that was accorded spirits to visit earth; the reply was:—"*You must not know the mysteries.*"

Another band of spirits said, "*Go on in faith and you will conquer.*" With such encouraging assurances to "*Publish and plead the cause of Spiritualism,*" I hope to stand by the truth until it has "come out."

I remain, &c.,
ROBERT COOPER.

Easthourne.

NEW SPIRITUAL SOCIETY.

We are glad to be able to record that a society for the protection and promotion of this important subject is now being formed.

A preliminary meeting was held at the office of Mr. John Jones, of Basinghall-street, on Thursday evening, the 25th of February, that gentleman having generously allowed the use of his office as a meeting place for three months.

Mr. Jones was unanimously requested to preside, and he then stated the objects for which the meeting had been convened, urging the imminent necessity existing for some centre of inter-communication.

After a full discussion on the part of those present, and statements having been made by several gentlemen as to the nature of the organisation proposed, the following resolutions were passed:—

Resolved—That an organization for the protection of the interests of Spiritualism be formed.

Resolved—That the plan of the association, as given through the hand of Mr. Spear, be adopted as the basis of the organization now formed.

Resolved—That a committee be now appointed, to devise a fitting name for the association, and for other purposes; and that such committee, with power to add to their number, consist of Messrs. Jones, Bielfield, Tiffin, Powell, Wallis, Spear, and Mackenzie.

Resolved—That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to *The Spiritual Magazine* and *The Spiritual Times.*

Various propositions were made and discussed, but the consideration of these subjects was postponed. The committee then agreed to meet on Friday the 4th of March, the proceedings at which meeting will duly be made known to our readers interested in the movement. An unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Jones, for his kindness in granting the use of his office, and for the efficient manner in which he had presided over the meeting, concluded the business of the evening.

During the past month Mr. R. Cooper has been delivering Lectures on Spiritualism, in Eastbourne, Hailsham, Hurstmonceaux, Hastings, and Lewes.—Mr. Barkas has been lecturing on the same subject at Glasgow.

It may be, that in the last times the upper and the lower, the spiritual and the physical, may more intimately meet. * * * * It is highly probable that as the winding up of the great drama in which we play a part draws nearer, the future or the heavenly rest shall come down in clearer manifestation to this world.—*Dr. Cumming.*

The Mission of Spiritualism is to awaken the dormant faculties of men; to arouse their slumbering consciences; to quicken their souls into vigorous action and revive decaying piety; to elevate their thoughts above the fleeting shows of time and sense, to the enduring, though to most of us invisible realities of spiritual life; leading them to feel that we all are, in very deed, children of God, brothers of Christ, heirs of immortality; and to teach them their relations and duties to man their brother—to God their Father.

A WELSH GHOST.—Last week, a lad, aged 14, living at Dowlais, went into the back yard in the evening and returned almost instantly in great fright, exclaiming that he had seen his own ghost. When sufficiently recovered to give an account, he said that on opening the back door he saw himself, white and deathlike, standing in front, and he at once ran back. His friends endeavoured to joke him out of the belief, but he was not to be shaken, and, singular to add, so states a trustworthy informant, he sickened, and, though a healthy lad up to the day of his fright, grew worse and died.—*Cambria Daily Leader.*

"SPIRITUALISM: ITS FACTS AND PHASES."—Mr. Powell gives an evidently honest, straightforward relation of his experiences, showing how he became convinced, and sustaining his conclusions by scriptural and other argument; and relating many original facts of the supernatural kind. There is also, in his book, the *fac simile* of the handwriting of a relative of Mr. Cooper's who has been in the spirit-world more than thirty years; and *fac simile* of her autograph when in the body, so that the reader can perceive at a glance the identity of the handwriting in both, though an interval of thirty-four years separates the two. The *fac simile* of the medium's (Mr. Cooper's daughter) usual handwriting is also given, and is entirely different from the others. The work is published very cheap (2s.), and we hope it may have a wide circulation.—*The Spiritual Magazine.*

A GHOST AT EGTON, NEAR WHITBY.—The inhabitants of this place are at the present time in a state of considerable excitement in consequence of one house being nightly visited by one of those alarming intruders designated ghosts. From the facts we have been enabled to collect, it seems that a shopkeeper in the village recently died, and a newly married couple succeeded him in business. Matters went comfortably on until the wife heard mysterious noises in the house, which, of course alarmed her, but this has increased to such an extent that she has left the house. The very furniture and crockery in the house are said to have disturbed the repose of the inmates, and the circumstances have given rise to the most incredible gossip in the village, one rumour being that the ghost returned respecting its money. To this superstitious and ridiculous statement such credence was given, that we hear the floor of the house has been excavated in order to satisfy curiosity whether there was any cash concealed in the ground. —*Whitby Gazette.*

TOWN TALK.

BY OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

Our readers will understand that we do not hold ourselves responsible for our able Correspondent's opinions.

The interest usually taken at this particular period of the year by the London world in domestic matters still continues to pale before that endless topic of conversation, the Schleswig-Holstein affair. The conduct of the Germans meets with no sympathisers, although supported at tedious length in the columns of the *Times* by Mr. Max Müller, the foreign professor at Oxford. We cannot understand the logic of such treatment—as, when a man is down to hit him until he gets up again. The German Confederation threatened Denmark with Federal execution if that State continued perverse and declined to comply with the behests of the Diet. Denmark, in this instance, being clearly in the wrong, sought and obtained advice from England. She instantly complied with it, but the ire of the Germans having very slowly arrived at a culminating point, could not be so easily appeased; and, in addition to submission on the part of the Danes, some other guarantees, by which their future docility was to be insured, were demanded; and so brief a space of time was granted to the King and his Minister to give these, that they were powerless to act, unless they assumed the responsibility so fashionable in Berlin—to forget that there was such an institution as a Constitutional Monarchy. The result we all know: high words were followed by hard blows, and the Danes and Schleswig-Holsteiners will long remember the dreadful winter of 1863-4, with its bloody accompaniments. The Conference which is to take place in London, and to which the leading Powers have given their adhesion, and from the result of which we are told that a peaceful solution of existing difficulties is to be arrived at, brings no immediate satisfaction to the friends of the Danes, as, pending its sitting, there is to be no armistice, but the war is to be carried on with vigour, on the part of two of the greatest military countries in the world against a puny nation with its standing army of something like 40,000 men. Jutland has been invaded, and the allies have signified their intention to hold their ground merely because Denmark—after having witnessed two of its provinces invaded, its executive officers driven from their posts, its national colours torn down and replaced by those of a foreign character, and, finally, its subjects attacked and butchered—was simple enough to suppose that this was war; and consequently gave instructions to its naval commanders to seize all the property they could find afloat belonging to their aggressors. Austria and Prussia, if all be true that one hears, are now ardently anxious to find means by which they can beat a decent retreat from the very awkward predicament in which they have placed themselves. To add to their troubles, the Emperor of the French betrays no excitement, but, as a mere matter of precaution, is intent upon seeing that his choicest troops now massed on the eastern frontier of his empire are maintained in the highest state of efficiency. Arms and accoutrements of all kinds are notoriously being collected on the coasts of Italy. Prudent merchants decline to charter ships belonging to any German State. Credits are limited, if not altogether refused, on the part of traders and capitalists in England and France to their customers of the obstinate "Faderland." Trade languishes, unless, indeed, one excepts that part of it more immediately connected with the *matériel* of war, and here, indeed, a very brisk traffic exists. Of this I have the best opportunities of judging; the large manufacturers of steel tubes in Lancashire and Yorkshire are full of orders—certainly not from our own Government, as we are still undecided about the character of the gun which we are to introduce into our naval and military services: therefore the orders have a foreign origin. I am also told that scarcely a day passes without inquiries being made as to the cost of spherical and elongated steel shot and shell. Neither do these emanate from our War Department, as the formidable missiles referred to have not as yet been adopted by us, although Russia and other countries have long since set us an example in this respect. The old proverb about "an ill wind," &c., is now being verified, much to our benefit. The American carrying trade has been ruthlessly destroyed by the existence of the Alabama and her sister cruisers, and now that of all the States composing the German Bund is to be also tabooed, so that British shipowners will find ample employment for their property. And, notwithstanding the feeling exhibited on the part of American merchants settled in China to encourage the chartering of any other vessels than those which carry the English ensign, the effect can only be one of a passing character, and the holders of shipping are likely, for some time to come, to be a prosperous race.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have the prospect of a busy season before them. Already the *levées* by the Prince have commenced, and the Queen has authorised the Princess to hold drawing-rooms in her name. The Londoners will be disappointed if the next few months do not prove attractive, not only to them, but to all strangers who may be induced to visit the metropolis. Mentioning the name of the Prince reminds me of an anecdote just now related of him. While lately residing at St. Leonards, his Royal Highness, as is well known, went out with the East Sussex hounds. On taking a hedge, his horse stumbled and threw his rider, who, fortunately, after throwing a summersault, alighted on his feet. He remounted immediately, rode after the hounds, and successfully took a five-barred gate in the most gallant style, much to the delight of all his brother Nimrods.

The runners of the blockade of the Southern ports on the coasts of the Confederate States are still pursuing their avocations with great briskness, notwithstanding that they have, within the last twelve months, lost nearly one hundred vessels. The banks of the Thames and Mersey are now reverberating with the clang of the hammer and the taps of the riveters, as ship after ship is constructed and launched, all for the purpose of making food and clothing cheap in those States which own Mr. Davis as President, and to bring out cotton to fill up a small crevice in the gap which the lamentable and unnatural war raging on the other side of the Atlantic has created in our own manufacturing districts. I hear of one celebrated builder on the Thames, Mr. C. J. Mare, who is engaged in constructing three fast-going steamers, all intended for one purpose—the breaking of the blockade.

The navy estimates promise to be rather troublesome this year to Ministers; they have been prepared with an amount of economy rather more shadowy than real. In fact, Lord Clarence Paget has suggested to the Committee of Supply that we should sacrifice the £300,000, or the greater portion of this sum, for the purpose of adding to the pay of naval officers, and for other equally laudable objects. The House of Commons has agreed to pass a bill by which it is made imperative to test ships' anchors and cables. If this had been done years ago, how many valuable lives would have been saved!

Z.

OUTLINES OF THE WEEK

No important news has reached us from America except that both North and South are preparing for another grand struggle. In the Federal States the bounty for volunteers is excessively high, whilst the conscription stares in the face those who will not accept it. The Confederates, on the other hand, are making every effort to increase their strength, and so much are they in want of recruits that, contrary to all prejudices, they are about to arm their negroes and call them into their ranks. The lull that has been experienced during the past few weeks in actual war is felt to be only the calm which precedes the storm, and terrible war and bloodshed is yet to be apprehended. Appeal is being made in London in aid of the wounded and sick soldiers belonging to both armies, and Mr. Cyrus Field, who is now in England, is exerting himself to the utmost to raise funds for this benevolent object.

In Europe, however, the war which threatens to enthrall even the most peaceful nations is occupying more attention at the present moment than anything which occurs in America. The question of the proposed Conference of European Powers on the Dano-German question continues almost to monopolise public solicitude. It is by no means certain that the efforts of the English Government to bring such a Conference about will be successful. Lord Palmerston, has indeed stated, in the House of Commons, that Prussia and Austria would accept the invitation; that Russia would, he believed, take part in such Conference; of Sweden he was uncertain, but spoke confidently of the support of France; and the Imperial Ministry joining England in such a project, is, to say the least of it, an indication of their peaceful inclinations. A feeling, however, prevails that Denmark will not accept the invitation: the determined spirit of the Danes is said every day to grow bolder, and the people more enthusiastic. Both Houses of the Danish Rigsdad have unanimously adopted an address to their King, assuring him of their resolution to "preserve their nationality, and their right to govern themselves." They demand the retention of their union with Schleswig, and express a wish for the energetic prosecution of the war. The King gave a verbal reply, which was an echo of the address. He will do everything, he says, to secure a beneficial peace, but on no conditions will he admit the "abolition of the existing political connection between Denmark and Schleswig." He desires, he says, "to be a free King over a free people," and he trusts that his epitaph may be, "A truer heart no'er beat for Denmark." We may here observe, for the benefit of those readers who are not well versed in Danish laws, that the Rigsdad is the assembly of Danish representatives alone: the Rigsraad, on the other hand, is a general assembly, composed of both Danish and Schleswigers; and it was to the latter general assembly that the King wished to submit the concessions proposed by the Germans.

The great conspiracy case in Paris has been brought to a termination by the conviction of the four Italian prisoners accused of having designs against the life of Napoleon. They appear to have been found clearly guilty, and two of them were sentenced to be transported for life, and the others to twenty years' imprisonment. The trial during its progress excited very little interest even in Paris; and after sentence was passed, little more would have been thought about the matter, had it not been for the mixing up Mazzini's name in the plot, and by that means bringing a grave imputation against a member of the British Parliament. The Procureur-Imperial said, in the course of his speech for the prosecution, that when Greco, one of the principal actors in the plot, wanted money, he was to write to Mr. Flower, 35, Thurloe-square, London; and on looking in the "London Directory," he recognised, with great pain, as living at that residence the name of a member of the British Parliament who had, in 1857, been appointed by Mazzini to be the banker of the Tebaldi or Orsini conspiracy against the Emperor's life. Who the learned counsel meant was evident at first sight, because, if any one will take up the "London Directory," he will see that 35, Thurloe-square is the address of Mr. T. H. Stansfeld, who is M.P. for Halifax, and one of the Lords of the Admiralty. The honourable member, in answer to a question from Mr. Cox, the member for Finsbury, has since expressed, in the House of Commons, both astonishment and indignation at the charge made against him by the Procureur, and considered it best to treat the imputation with contempt; at the same time he expressed most firmly his conviction that Mazzini had nothing whatever to do with the plots.

The only bill before Parliament which is causing much sensation out of doors is Mr. Gladstone's scheme for abolishing the duty on malt used for feeding purposes alone. This, however, has not quite satisfied the agriculturists; consequently a deputation, consisting of forty Members of Parliament, representing large agricultural interests, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at his official residence, and petitioned for the total and immediate abolition of the malt-tax altogether. The great question to decide, Mr. Gladstone told them, was, What will most benefit the people generally?—for in taxing the resources of the country we were bound, he contended, to consider the wishes and necessities of the whole community, and therefore he gave the deputation little hope that he could extend his bill to the total abolition of the malt-tax, which now produces £5,000,000 a year. Mr. Gladstone had suggested that the mixture of linseed in the malt would unfit it for brewing purposes, and make it none the worse for feeding. Mr. Bass, the celebrated brewer, however, placed two barrels of beer in the cellar of the House, one made from a mixture of malt and linseed, and the other from pure malt and hops, and defied the members to detect which was pure and which was adulterated. Sundry members tried the experiment, and it caused some amusement, for one noble lord declared the compound nauseous, whilst various members averred that they detected no difference between that and the purer liquid. It is however believed that Mr. Gladstone will carry his measure in the form he first presented it; and perhaps, at a future time, he may be induced by the agriculturists to forego the tax on malt altogether; but this, of course, will depend much upon the revenue of the country.

PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

The visitor to the House of Commons will sometimes be puzzled with the formula of Parliamentary proceedings; but a very good guide to those who are not well up in these things is to take the orders of the day from out of one of the morning papers, and he will there see the notices as they are appointed to come on and the persons who are to propose the motions; and although these will not be introduced in the order set down in the newspaper, the subject which is brought forward will soon disclose to the visitor what motion is before the House, and who the member may be who first addresses the Speaker to introduce it. And here we should observe that one special rule of the House is that no printed paper is allowed within the hallowed Hall of St. Stephen's, excepting the forms printed by official authority. The members even are not permitted to introduce a newspaper upon any occasion; and should it be necessary for any representative to quote a passage, if he has it not by heart, he must have it transcribed before he can read the paragraph. Woe be to the unfortunate visitor in the Strangers' Gallery, if he dares to bring out a newspaper to pass away the dreary time whilst some formality is going forward that he cares nothing about; or even if he should chance to bring out a pocket-book and make a pencilled note, that privilege being alone permitted to the reporters; but even the latter are not allowed to refresh their memories with the printed news of the day, but are supplied with the official papers published by the Parliamentary printer. The visitor, however, should cut out of his newspaper the programme to which we have referred, and take a sly glance at it when the watchful eyes of the official gentlemen are directed another way. Being privileged persons ourselves, and therefore enabled to see more than a visitor would, we will commence our account of a day at the House of Commons by going to prayers with the chaplain and the Speaker.

Prayers and Ceremonies.

At a quarter before four o'clock the doors of the Commons Hall are thrown open, and the Speaker is escorted to a chair at the table, where the chairman of committee sits, when on duty, next to the Serjeant-at-Arms with his heavy mace. Then appears the chaplain in full canonicals, who takes his place at the other end of the table, and reads some short prayers from the Church of England Prayer-book. The few members who have arrived at this early period stand up, and, with one knee upon the seat, maintain a respectful attention. The ceremony does not last more than five minutes, and the chaplain retires, walking backwards to the door, out of respect to the greatest gentleman in England; and as four o'clock arrives, straggling members enter, each one signing his name in a book kept on the clerks' table for that purpose. A little quiet chit-chat goes forward, the members hanging about as if uncertain whether they have any business there or not

Opening of the Business of the Day.

The Speaker cannot take his seat in his office chair until forty members have assembled, without which there would be no House; thus he retains the seat at the table which he occupied during prayers. Whilst in this temporary seat, the members flock around their Speaker, and appear to enjoy his society. When he fancies there are sufficient members, the Speaker will methodically count one, two, three, &c., pointing to each with his hand as he does so. Perhaps he will announce that there are only thirty odd, when some member anxious for business will descry one or two representatives in the gallery, who have scarcely determined whether they will take their place that evening or not; should these make up a sufficient number, the Speaker takes his chair, and the business of the day commences, which is introduced in the order named: first, private bills, then petitions, of which we shall speak hereafter. The Speaker next reads aloud the notices of motion. When he has read, say, the first on his list, the proposer rises and begins his speech. If no one moves, the Speaker asks, "Is the honourable member for such and such a place present?" No person answering to the name mentioned in the House. After the debates on the various motions are over—which may last, as they did the other night, till twelve o'clock—the Speaker reads the notices for future motions, and after them, the notices of bills. One of the rules of the House is that until forty members are assembled no one can leave the Hall, and this sometimes introduces some ludicrous scenes. It was only in the last session that the Chancellor of the Exchequer offended against this rule. He had been walking moodily about (as is his wont) until business should commence, when he felt a sudden desire to visit the library and he passed out of the door before the Serjeant-at-Arms' attention was drawn to it. Such an offence, however, could not be passed over, and Lord Charles Russell and Captain Gossett each went in search of the delinquent. They soon pounced upon him, and reminded him of the grave offence he had committed; and, in the most official manner, took him into custody and back to the House. The charge was communicated to the Speaker, and this learned gentleman was kind enough to forgive the offender without even a reprimand.

Orders of the Day.

Tuesday and Thursday are what are called Government days, which merely means that Government business shall take precedence over private matters. We will suppose the visitor to have been with us on Tuesday, when Mr. Fitzgerald's motion was introduced, and passing on from the orders of the day to the motions, we will take a glance at the various speakers as they rise and give the opinion that any stranger would entertain upon hearing them, notwithstanding all prejudices of politics or partisanship. Before we do so, however, we would remark that perhaps there has never been more cross-firing on simple motions than was witnessed during the past week. The members appear to have grown tired of being idle, and have the fear of their constituents before their eyes, the period being near at hand when they will have to meet them. Thus it appears as if every one wished to say something, in order that the reporters may at least give their name as being present at the debate, looking after the interests of the people they represent. There also seems to have grown up an ill-natured feeling towards each other, and rather more indulgence in personalities is practised than formerly. Our space will not permit us to enter fully into the debates of Tuesday; therefore, passing over Mr. Locke King and his £10 Franchise Bill, and Mr. Hibbert on Public Executions, each of which provoked some discussion, we come to the debate of the evening—

The Seizure of the Steam Rams.

Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, in moving for copies of all correspondence between the Government and Messrs. Laird, made it an excuse for a determined attack upon Earl Russell. Mr. Fitzgerald is a bright, fresh-complexioned gentleman, who always looks as if he had just stepped from a yacht, or from breathing the pure air of some mountain fastnesses; he has a cheerful, happy countenance, and one only wonders that he can possibly utter hard things. This gentleman, it will be remembered, was Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Derby Ministry, and he now ranges himself in the Opposition seat, evidently ready to take the Ministerial again when an opportunity might open. He is a vigorous and ready speaker, and it is evident from the cheers which greeted him when he sat down that he is held in high respect by his party. There was a feeling in the House that the war-note of the Opposition had been sounded by Mr. Fitzgerald. He had no sooner done speaking than something like twenty members rose; but the Speaker is an excellent tactician. He chose to see only Sir Roundell Palmer, who had been appointed to do battle for the Government, and a most argumentative and powerful champion he always makes. Next to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Attorney-General is certainly the greatest orator on the Ministerial bench, and his value to the Government throughout the recent discussions on international law has been inestimable. His pale, thoughtful, earnest face lights up as his arguments seem to tell, and he gradually warms to his work, and makes his points with a force of manner of which you would hardly have thought him capable. He has a strictly logical mind, but is rather difficult to follow, as his sentences are often too long and too complicated; but he does not allow you to misunderstand him on any point. He enters into the minutest explanations, which are sometimes tedious; but you are convinced that he tells you nothing beyond honest facts in his own estimation.

Mr. Horsfall and Lord Robert Cecil.

The next member who caught the eye of the Speaker, after Sir Roundell Palmer sat down, was Mr. Horsfall, who speaks in a plain, straightforward manner, becoming a British merchant representative. What he has to say he tells quickly, without any beating about the bush. In this instance he characterised the conduct of the Government towards Mr. Laird as an act of great injustice and a profligate waste of public money. But now a tall, rather ungainly, figure rises upon the front bench below the gangway, and, with bitter invective, declaims against the new power asserted by the Government to suspend the rights of individuals and to dispense with laws. Some men have a power of saying cutting things in a pleasant genial manner, which almost takes the sting out of them. Lord Palmerston, for instance, rarely excites ill-will, though at times he hits very hard. But Lord Robert Cecil, who is the speaker we are alluding to, has not this happy knack, nor apparently does he care to cultivate it. All he says which is likely to damage or to wound, comes with double force by reason of his emphasis and his manner. There is no lurking smile, no glimpse of humour, no good nature in his blows which makes a man when he is knocked down by them get up and shake himself, and say, "Well, he's not such a bad fellow after all." He appears to say, "You know you deserve all this and a great deal more, if I had power to give it you." He has also a very peculiar attitude; as he speaks he takes half a step in advance, as if he was going to commence a pugilistic encounter; then he retreats, but not so far as he had advanced, and keeps continuing this until, perhaps, by the time he has arrived at the pith of his argument, he is half-way across the floor on his way to the Ministerial bench, as though he were conveying a challenge to some member thereon.

Mr. Forster and Sir Hugh Cairns.

Whilst Lord Robert Cecil was speaking, sundry members became fidgety, and anxious to let off the steam in a speech. Amongst those was a tall man with rugged face and lanky hair; he had been bobbing up and down for the last ten minutes, and, when Lord Robert sat down, managed to catch the Speaker's eye. When he rose, his keen eyes and confident air quite put you on good terms with the gentleman, and he dashed into his subject in a manner which made you desire to know more of him. This was Mr. W. E. Forster, the crack shot of the House of Commons, and the most ardent Federalist there. He took up the cudgels against Lord Robert Cecil, and asked how we should like it ourselves if our commerce was preyed upon by American Alabamas, taunting the Opposition with a wish to urge the Government into a war, and with their fears to submit a definite vote of censure. After him followed Sir Hugh Cairns, in one of the ablest specimens of oratory we have heard for a length of time. Sir Hugh has much of the Irish dash about him, but this is evidently toned down and refined by professional training. It is not rhetoric alone that the ex-Solicitor-General possesses, but brilliant rhetoric joined to cogent argument acting on the reason as strongly as on the feelings of those who listen to it. Loud and prolonged cheers greeted him when he resumed his seat, and an evident impression had been made upon the House by his brilliant harangue.

Mr. Walpole and Mr. Baring.

Perhaps there is no man more respected by all parties in the House than Mr. Walpole; he sits behind Mr. Disraeli on the Opposition side. It will be remembered, however, that he seceded from Lord Derby's Ministry, together with Mr. Henley, who now sits beside him, when the Conservative Reform Bill was introduced, and they have not since rejoined that party. There was a slight pause after Sir Hugh Cairns had sat down when amid the cheers of the House up rose the noble figure of Mr. Walpole, who commenced his speech with eulogies on Sir Hugh Cairns. He said that since the days of Sir William Grant and Sir James Mackintosh, there had not been delivered such a masterly expression of international and constitutional law as that delivered by the ex-Solicitor-General. The remainder of Mr. Walpole's speech was a direct attack upon the Attorney-General and the Government. The Solicitor-General said a few words in defence, which were scarcely listened to; but the Government had a champion near that they little expected. In the midst of the Tories up rose Mr. Tom Baring, who poured forth a storm of rhetorical shot and shell, which fled through their ranks and did infinite execution. Perhaps no speech during the session had such an effect upon the House as this of Mr. Baring's. Amidst the cheers of Ministerial and neutral members, he blamed the leaders of the Opposition for hounding on a war with the Northern States, and thanked Earl Russell for averting it. After this speech independent members who were expected to vote with the Opposition hurried out of the House to avoid the division; and the chief Ministerial teller, Mr. Brand, very shortly announced, amid great cheering from his party, a Ministerial majority of twenty-five. It now being twelve o'clock, we retired.

Lord Palmerston.

The noble Premier was absent during the debate of Tuesday. His lordship has had a severe attack of gout. He was there on the previous night, although very lame, and contrary to the advice of his medical attendants; but hearing that a smart debate was going on about the Danish papers, and that Mr. Disraeli had charged him with always being absent when inconvenient questions were to be asked, the brave old Premier pooh-poohed his physician, and hobbled down, with much pain and no little risk, to Westminster. On Wednesday the Cabinet Council was held at Cambridge-house for his convenience, but on Thursday he was at his work again, and put it out of any one's power to say that he was reluctant to answer questions, for he replied to them by the half-dozen. On Friday evening he was also at the House; and again on Monday he was in his place, prepared to answer any questions either for himself or the Government; on which occasion he replied rather bitterly to an attack made by Mr. Disraeli on Earl Russell, telling the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer that he was never so great in his own opinion, and never so successful, as when attacking an absent man. We are sorry to hear that his lordship's gouty foot is still very troublesome, and he could not walk on Monday without the aid of a stick.

In our next article we will endeavour to show how motions and amendments are put, the rules of the House on a division, and the mode of counting the Ayes and the Noes, with sundry observations upon matters as they occur during the week.

Hydrophobia.—The inhabitants of the small town of Chauffailles (Saône-et-Loire) have been thrown into great alarm by the following circumstances:—On the 20th of November last, while the market was being held there, a dog, after having seriously bitten the hand of a young child, did the same to about a dozen other dogs, and then took to flight across the fields, pursued by some gendarmes armed with muskets. During the chase the dog attacked several other dogs, sheep, and cows. At length the animal was seized with convulsions, threw itself on the ground foaming at the mouth, and tearing at the grass with its teeth. This stoppage enabled its pursuers to come up and dispatch it. The hand of the child was deeply cauterised and danger thus prevented, but many of the dogs, after being subjected to the muzzle for a few days, were again let loose. On the 20th inst., just three months after the event above mentioned, one of the dogs which had been bitten flew at a postman, tore his clothes, and would doubtless have inflicted some serious injury had not the men made a vigorous resistance and kept the animal at bay with his letter box. The dog, when beaten off, ran through the streets and bit every dog that came in its way until it was at last killed. The inhabitants are now afraid that serious consequences may ensue hereafter from the virus being thus communicated to other dogs.

A Sad Fatality.—It is much to be lamented that after the wonderful cures effected by that never-failing remedy, that there should still be so many sufferers in existence. There is only one way by which we can account for it, and that is because many do not know of Page Woodcock's Wind Pills, which are working wonders in the cure of the following disorders:—Wind in the Stomach, Indigestion, Biliousness, &c. &c.—Sold by all Medicine Vendors, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., or free by post for 14 or 33 stamps, from Page Woodcock, Chemist, Lincoln.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

The Thames Tunnel has been sold to the East London Railway Company for £173,000.

There is to be a new bridge built over the Thames at Hampton Court. The plans will soon be forthcoming.

A petition was last week presented to the House of Commons which contained the astonishing number of ninety-three grammatical errors!

Some English gentlemen complain of being insulted and wrongfully imprisoned by soldiers lately at Genoa.

Mrs. Wilkins, widow of the late Serjeant Wilkins, is playing a successful engagement at Wallack's Theatre, New York.

The Right Rev. Dr. Gillis, Roman Catholic bishop *in partibus*, and vicar-general of the eastern district of Scotland, died in Edinburgh last week.

A married lady at Dawlish has eloped with a bachelor gentleman whose seat is in Berkshire. They are said to have gone to Paris, or Edinburgh, or somewhere else—the gossips have not yet settled the precise locality.

The Association for Abolishing Tolls on Metropolitan Bridges is active in getting up a first-class petition, and generally takes a little toll from the signers towards paying the expense of the agitation and petitioning.

Mr. Basil Chambers, M.A., of Liverpool, has just seceded from the Church of England, and joined that of the Catholic. It is understood that Mr. Chambers intends taking orders in the Catholic Church.

The "Gazette" announces that her Majesty has conferred the Knight Companionship of the Bath on General Cameron, in acknowledgment of his eminent and successful services in the New Zealand war.

The "Army and Navy Gazette" says that the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst will become vacant immediately by the promotion of Colonel Rochfort Scott to be Major-General.

Their R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales and household are likely to remove from Marlborough-house to Sandringham-hall about the 22nd inst., to remain there until after the Easter holidays.

The "Dublin Evening Mail" says that last week the Earl of Charlemont attended at the Court of Chancery, and took the usual oaths as Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Tyrone.

An Oregon paper asserts, as a positive fact, that a family of Rocky Mountain rats recently carried off, and secreted among the rocks, 640lbs. of candles from a mining tunnel at Gregory Point.

M. Pietri, the French Senator, who was formerly Prefect of Police, is reported to be dying. He has received extreme unction. The Emperor and Prince Napoleon went to see him on Saturday.

The great forger, William Roupell, is at the present time an inmate of the convict prison at Portsea. He works in the yard, and is also engaged in levelling the fortifications surrounding the town.

The Duke of Rutland, according to the last letters received from Egypt, is greatly improved in health. His Grace is not expected home until the end of April or early in May.

The London Committee of the Danish Soldiers' Relief Fund have already forwarded £1,000 to Copenhagen, through the Danish minister in London, in furtherance of the humane object of the subscribers to the fund.

A provisional prize-law—provisional until its ratification by the Danish Rigsraad—has been issued by King Christian for the decision of cases relating to hostile or suspected ships captured by the Danish cruisers during the war.

Sir Francis Crossley, Bart., M.P., has promised, on behalf of Messrs. John Crossley and Sons, of Halifax, the National Lifeboat Institution to defray the cost, amounting to £300, of a new lifeboat, to be stationed at Redcar, Yorkshire.

The last joke at the expense of Lincoln is, that the obliteration of the postage stamps bearing his portrait makes a perfect likeness of the President, as the obliteration is done by means of black dots, which puts the one touch of nature that makes it kin to the original.

The new hotel at Brighton will be opened on the 1st of June—of course with a grand celebration of the feast of reason and the flow of soul. The first patronage the hotel will receive will be from the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, who have secured apartments.

We are given to understand that Lord Dufferin has been appointed Lord-lieutenant of the county of Down, in the room of the Marquis of Londonderry, resigned; and the appointment is believed to be a popular one.

The great precedence question between Dublin and Edinburgh was referred by the Crown to the Lords of the Privy Council, and, after being argued before a Committee of the Council, it was agreed that the representatives of the two cities should take alternate precedence.

The half-yearly meeting of the General Steam Navigation Company has just been held, when the dividend of 1s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share was declared, payable on the 14th of March.

Three boys were kept in the stocks at St. Ives, Cornwall, for three hours last week, for having played marbles on Sunday. This mode of punishment had not been adopted in the town for thirty years, and the novel sight consequently attracted several hundreds of spectators.

The inquest on the bodies of the three poor fellows who lost their lives in a lodging-house in the Borough, has been held, and although there was no very definite evidence to show how the fire originated, yet it was clearly accidental, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with that fact.

Captain Robertson, late of the 4th Dragoon Guards, and of court-martial notoriety, has been, after almost a year's incarceration, discharged from custody by the judge of the Insolvent Court. The judge said he left the court without the slightest stain upon his character or his honour.

The Second Chamber of Wurtemburg has voted an extraordinary military credit in face of the present emergency. The Chamber is favourable to the "strongest measures," and especially a union of the middle States, in order to "bring the national cause to a successful issue."

The other day a navvy, named Smith, jumped out of a train in motion near Pyle, on the Somerset and Dorset Railway. His arm caught one of the buffers, and he was dragged a considerable distance. His head was cut and his leg mangled in a shocking manner. He is lying in a dangerous state at Wimborne.

It would seem that the Confederate war steamer Florida has experienced her usual good luck in getting out of Brest, in spite of the careful watch kept over that port by the Federal steamer Kersarge. The latter vessel arrived at Boulogne in the afternoon of Friday. It was understood that she left again for Dover on Saturday.

The bill of the Government in respect to granting annuities through the medium of the Post-office Savings Banks is exciting alarm among the insurance companies. Meetings of the representatives of several offices have been held, and resolutions have been passed condemning the measure as being an interference with ordinary commercial enterprise.

The mortality in the metropolis is gradually on the decline. Last week exhibits the lowest return of deaths that has occurred since the commencement of the year. There is still, however, much room for improvement, as the deaths last week amounted to 1,536, which was 177 more than the ordinary average mortality. The births were 2,122, which was a little above the average number.

Last Sunday, being the Third Sunday in Lent and also the 28th day of February, the chapter appointed for the Second Lesson in the morning contained the Gospel for the day. Such a coincidence has not occurred on the Third Sunday in Lent for more than thirty years, though it will take place again in 1869 and in 1875. It can only revert when Easter falls on March 28, or in leap year, March 27.

About 150 officers, non-commissioned officers, and recruits belonging to the Brigade of Guards, from the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scots Fusilier regiments, left the Waterloo terminus of the London and South Western Railway, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Cure, of the Grenadier Guards, about ten o'clock on Saturday morning, en route for Aldershot Camp, where the recruits will undergo a course of musketry instruction.

We ("Army and Navy Gazette") understand that Mr. Whitworth will be prepared to deliver at the Woolwich Arsenal, about the middle of March, the guns which he has manufactured to compete with those already delivered by Sir William Armstrong; consequently, the important trial which is to take place between the principles of these two eminent artillerists will, in all probability, occur shortly after Easter.

We are told, upon semi-official authority, that the christening of the infant Prince is definitively arranged to take place on the 19th instant, at the Royal Chapel, Buckingham Palace. The invitations to attend the ceremony were issued on Monday afternoon to the members of the Cabinet and the principal officers of State.

During the week ending February 27, the visitors to the South Kensington Museum were as follows:—On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, free days, open from ten a.m. to ten p.m., 7,447; on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, students' days (admission to the public, 6d.), open from ten a.m. till four p.m., 1,235; total, 8,682. From the opening of the museum, 4,462,200.

Some correspondence between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Sir George Grey, respecting the proposal for dividing the diocese of Exeter and creating Cornwall an independent see, has just been published. Sir G. Grey states that Government have declined to entertain the request on the ground that such a division ought only to be made in connection with a general scheme for the revision of the boundaries of the dioceses throughout England.

The Government emigrant ship Warren Hastings, 566 tons, Mr. Anthony Hedley, master, belonging to Mr. Thomas W. Smith, London, sailed from Southampton, on the 27th ult., for Brisbane, Queensland, having on board 24 married couples, 59 single men, 64 single women, 24 boys and 17 girls between one and twelve years of age, and two infants, numbering in all 254 souls, equal to 231½ statute adults.

The Queen has commanded that a drawing-room shall be held on Saturday, the 19th instant, by the Princess of Wales, on behalf of her Majesty. All presentations will be considered as being made to her Majesty. The usual regulations will be observed. It is not expected that gentlemen will go to the drawing-room, except in attendance upon the ladies of their families.

At the Lowestoft Police-court, last week, the Rev. Henry Jodrell, of Gisleham, in the county of Suffolk, was charged with having assaulted and beaten George H. Cherry, an officer of her Majesty's Indian army. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge, and said he was quite content to submit to anything the magistrates might think proper to inflict. The bench ordered him to pay a fine of £5, or two months' imprisonment.

The contract for the supply of refreshments at the Crystal Palace has passed from the hands of Mr. Strange, after a three years' tenure. The new contractors are Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, the former of whom is well known as a manager of large establishments of the same kind, while the latter is a professed cook, who has recently filled the office of messman to one of our cavalry regiments.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

RUMOURED ARMING OF THE FRENCH IRON-CLAD FLEET.

The *Vigie de Cherbourg* asserts that the Minister of Marine has sent orders for filling up the crews of the iron-clad vessels before the 15th of March, and the arming of those vessels within the shortest possible time.

THE DANO-GERMAN DIFFICULTY

The Proposed Conference.

The *Constitutionnel* of February 26, in an article signed by M. Limayrac, upon the proposal of a conference, says:—"France would be happy to hope for success; it is not she who will raise obstacles; but it appears doubtful if the Germanic Confederation and Denmark will accede." The writer also regrets that an armistice was not accepted, and says he cannot yet see the end of the present conflict.

The official *Dresdner Journal* publishes a telegram from Paris, announcing that the French Government has accepted the English proposal for a Conference.

It is reported from Weimar that Denmark accepts the proposal for a Conference to be held in London.

The semi-official *Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of Berlin says:—"The dispatch of England, inviting Prussia to a Conference, was dated the 20th of Jan. The Prussian Cabinet replied, in a note dated the 31st ult., not rejecting in principle the propositions of England, but stipulating, as a preliminary condition to sending a representative to the Conference, the complete evacuation of Schleswig by the Danes."

AMERICA.

NEW YORK, FEB. 16.

After slight skirmishing, General Sherman occupied Jackson, Mississippi, on the 5th.

The Confederates were retreating across Pearl River.

General Sherman has since advanced to Brandon. Another portion of Sherman's forces has permanently occupied Yazoo City for foraging purposes.

It is reported that General Grant's army is in motion from Chattanooga towards Tunnell-hill and Dalton.

Bishop Polk, commanding in Mississippi, is believed to have received reinforcements from Dalton.

General Long-treet holds the Tennessee railroad to Strawberry plains.

General Peek has arrived at Newbern, and has made preparations for his defence.

The steamers Hatfield, Sparkie, Dee, Jonny, Emily, and Fanny have been destroyed, and the City of Petersburg captured off Wilmington.

A brig with 700 slaves on board was captured on the 9th off North Side, Cuba.

NEW YORK, FEB. 18.

General Grant's forward movement has not been confirmed.

The commander of Mobile has telegraphed that he anticipates an early attack on the city.

Admiral Farragut's fleet has left New Orleans, destination unknown.

It is anticipated that the Confederates will open the spring campaign by a formidable raid into Pennsylvania.

The *New York Herald* asserts that President Lincoln will issue a proclamation of universal emancipation, including the Border States, on the 22nd inst.

General Banks has issued an order at New Orleans stating that it is the people's duty to assist in restoring the civil Government. Indifference will be treated as a crime. Men refusing to defend their country with the ballot-box or cartridge-box have no claim to the benefits of liberty. The New York journals consider this equivalent to compulsory voting.

The steamer Cumberland has been captured whilst entering Mobile harbour. The steamer Denbigh has been destroyed whilst leaving Mobile.

It is reported that the Federal Government has received information that Confederate vessels have left Asia for the Pacific.

It is reported that General Johnston is preparing to attack Chattanooga.

SHOCKING LOSS OF THE BARQUE ELIZA ANN.

Seven of her Crew Starved to Death.

The following intelligence has been received by Capt. Halsted, R.N., secretary of Lloyd's, from her Majesty's consul at New York, reporting the loss of the British barque Eliza Ann, of Plymouth, and the shocking fate of several of her crew by starvation and exposure:—

"British Consulate, New York, Feb. 8, 1864.

"Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for the information of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, a copy of a written report made to me by Richard Kearney, master of the barque Eliza Ann, of Plymouth, detailing the circumstances of the loss and abandonment of that vessel at sea, and of the rescue of a portion of the crew by the steamship Edinburgh, of Liverpool, Thomas Fleetwood Roskell, master. This would appear to have been a case of peculiar hardship, and great credit is due to the master of the Edinburgh for his humane treatment of the shipwrecked crew after their rescue. Richard S. Thompson, chief officer of the steamer, would appear likewise to have acted in a praiseworthy manner, he having commanded the boat which took the survivors from the wreck. The amount of subsistence money which would be due, about £5 15s., has been offered by me to Captain Roskell, but refused. Six of the rescued crew were so much disabled, owing to their exposure upon the wreck, that it has been found necessary to send them direct to the hospital at public expense, and the master and two mates are being subsisted by me until an opportunity offers to send them home. Seven of the Eliza Ann's crew perished upon the wreck from starvation and thirst, and one on board the steamer after their rescue. It has been impossible to obtain with certainty the names of these unfortunate men, as all the vessel's papers, log-books, &c., had been lost; but the master's report gives them as far as possible.—I have the honour, &c., "E. M. ARCHIBALD.

"The Secretary Marine Department,
"Board of Trade."

(Copy of inclosure, dated New York, Jan. 6.)

"The Eliza Ann sailed Jan. 3, 1864, with a cargo of timber. Experienced a succession of terrific gales and sea, which swept the decks, and the vessel became water-logged, notwithstanding that every effort was made to keep her clear. It was impossible to secure any provisions, except a barrel of potatoes, and we were entirely without water at the same time. All the effects of the crew and myself, along with the ship's papers, were lost, and for many days we were upon the point of starvation, and without any

THE NEWS BUDGET.

Another Woman Burnt to Death.—On Saturday, information was forwarded to Mr. Payne, Southwark coroner, of the death, from fire, of Eliza Marley, a woman seventy-four years of age. The deceased woman resided in Green-street, Friar-street, Blackfriars-road, and on Thursday night she fell asleep while seated opposite the fire. The draught blew her dress between the bars of the grate, and she was in a moment enveloped in flames. Before assistance could be rendered she was dreadfully burnt over the whole body. She was conveyed to the hospital, where, after lingering for a short time, she expired in great agony.

Wills.—The will of Henry Farnell, Esq., of Isleworth, was proved in London on the 16th ultimo, by his brother, William Thomas Farnell, and his nephew, William Farnell Watson, the executors and trustees. The personalty was sworn under £250,000. The charitable bequests, amounting to £22,000, were stated last week.—The will of Henry Raikes, Esq., of Llwynegrin-hall, Mold, Flintshire, and of the city of Chester, was proved in London under £100,000 personalty, the acting executors and trustees being his son, Henry Cecil Raikes, Esq., and Henry Henshaw Skinner, Esq. Power is reserved to Mrs. Raikes, the relict, to prove hereafter. The will bears date 1860, and two codicils 1861-3. The testator has left his property to his wife and children.—*Illustrated News.*

The French Protestant Schools.—It appears that arrangements have been made, under the patronage of the Princess of Wales, and substantially under that of the whole English female aristocracy, to hold a bazaar at St. James's-hall, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of May next, on behalf of the French Protestant Free Schools which have grown up in this metropolis. Though these schools are of an origin as recent as 1859, more than 1,300 pupils have attended them, so numerous are the distressed French in the streets near Leicester, Golden, and Soho-squares. At present, however, the voluntary contributions of their friends do not suffice to meet the necessary outlay, so that there is occasion for this extraordinary effort in their behalf, and every reason to wish it a considerable success.

Plots against the Emperor.—The trial of the Italians for conspiracy before the Court of Assizes of the Seine, is the third of the same kind which has come before that tribunal since the re-establishment of the Empire. The first, known as the "Plot of the Hippodrome and the Opéra Comique," took place in November, 1853. On that occasion there were twenty-seven accused present, and five absent. There was only one foreigner implicated—a Wallachian, named John Bratiano, who was defended by M. Jules Favre. This is the only trial of the kind in which Frenchmen were among the accused present. The second trial was that of the Italians—Tibaldi, Grilli, and Bartolotti, in August, 1857. In this case four absent persons were implicated—Mazzini, Ledru-Rollin, Massarenti, and Campanella, a literary man. These four men were condemned to deportation, as was also Tibaldi. Grelli and Bartolotti were sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. Tibaldi is now at Cayenne.

New Zealand Legislation.—The New Zealand Legislature has passed an Act authorising a loan of £3,000,000 to be raised, and it appears to be expected that it will be guaranteed by the Home Government. It is redeemable in fifty years by a sinking fund. The money is to be devoted to various purposes—lighthouses, the suppression of the rebellion, and a scheme for the introduction and organisation of a large body of settlers to be planted, it would seem, on the lands of the rebellious tribes, and to construct roads through the most important districts. A bill for the prevention of the influx of criminals has been thrown out, on the ground that it interfered with the liberty of men who have ceased to be criminals. It has been determined to remove the seat of Government from Auckland to somewhere in Cook's Straits, as a more central and desirable position.

A Sham Princess of Wales.—One day last week a well-dressed young woman presented herself at the tradesmen's entrance to Windsor Castle, and requested that a letter she tendered should be delivered to Sir Charles Phipps. The reply of Sir Charles was to the effect that the bearer of the epistle should be shown at once from the waiting-room and from the precincts of the Castle. It appears that the poor creature is insane, believes herself to be the Princess of Wales, and says that she had been married to the Prince by Cardinal Wiseman. On being informed of the reply of Sir Charles Phipps to her note, she refused to leave, basing her right to remain on the fact of her being the Princess of Wales. It was not until after some time had elapsed that she could be induced to go, and was then conducted to the Union Workhouse, where she remains until she can be restored to her friends, from whose charge she appears to have escaped under the impulse of her strange delusion.

Chancery Funds.—The annual accounts of these funds have been presented to Parliament. The cash, or interest, account of the Suitors' Fund began the year with a balance in hand of £42,331, and closed with the balance raised to £97,928, after payment of the salaries, pensions, and expenses charged upon the fund. Of this balance £30,958 was paid over to the Suitors' Fee Fund account, a fund consisting mainly of the fees received in the course of the year; above £70,000 was received in the shape of stamps, and there were other receipts through various officers of the court. But this fund has also to bear a heavy burden of salaries and compensation annuities; among the latter stands £26,939 paid to eighteen sworn clerks and a messenger. The result is that the year ending in November, 1863, closed with the balance of cash in hand (including the transfer from the Suitors' Fund) raised to £99,252. But this is owing to sums which, though placed in the account of the past year, belong to the income of the previous year. The real income of the past year was £162,044, and the expenditure £161,687, leaving a surplus of only £357.

Swiss Sympathy with Denmark.—A large and influential meeting was recently held at Lausanne, to express sympathy with the Danes in their present struggle against Germany. A very warm and eloquent address in this sense was voted by acclamation. It was also resolved that the committee which had called the meeting should continue its work, and organise, if necessary, a national subscription for the wives and children of the Danish soldiers who might fall in battle. A suggestion made by one of the speakers, that the address above referred to should be sent for signature to all the Swiss cantons, so that the manifestation might become general, was very favourably received. The following are the more prominent passages of the address:—"Danish people! A large assemblage of Swiss citizens send you the expression of their sympathy and admiration. They know that you defend, at the present moment, the right of small nationalities—the right of the weak against the strong. Honour to you! Honour to your firmness and valour! The example that you give to the world will not be lost for the holy cause of liberty. We openly proclaim our sympathies for the liberal aspirations of every nation, for the ancient Scandinavian family as for great Germany; but we cannot see, without pain, these aspirations of the German people turn towards the invasion and dismemberment of one of its small neighbours by the united forces of Austria and Prussia."

Killed whilst Beating a Woman.—An inquiry has been held by Mr. John Humphreys at the Bank of Friendship Tavern, Bancroft-place, Mile-end, touching the death of a man named John Morris, aged fifty-two. The deceased was a labourer, living at 13, Victoria-row, Mile-end, and since August he has cohabited with a Mrs. Henley. On Saturday night he went to a raffle at the Crown beer-house, near Stepney Church; thither she followed him, and tried to get him home, but until he was turned out at twelve he would not leave. Alfred Edes said that when they left the Crown Mrs. Henley, to keep out of deceased's way, walked on with a fellow lodger. Deceased became jealous, and went up behind her and gave her a tremendous blow in the face, making her nose bleed. The force of the blow caused deceased himself to fall. He in a few minutes renewed the assault, and the woman pushed him back. He was partially unsteady from drink, and he fell on the back of his head on the granite pavement; he never moved for half an hour; he was at last taken home and laid on a bed, where he was found dead next morning. The woman only acted in self-defence. Dr. C. Hanniker said that deceased had received two severe wounds on the head, and arteries in the brain were ruptured by the fall. Deceased was a very healthy, vigorous man. Verdict—"That deceased was accidentally killed by a fall."

A Noble Scapegrace.—It is reported on American authority that by direction of the President, private George Roland, of the Fifth Rhode Island Artillery, has been released from the service. Roland, we understand, is an assumed name, and the person who bears it is the son of an English nobleman. He went to that country about twelve months since on a tour of pleasure, with sufficient money to meet the expenses of a year's travel, but, falling among the sharpers, was soon relieved of his well-filled purse, and while he was awaiting a remittance from home the draft took place in Rhode Island. Here was an opportunity to obtain money immediately by offering himself as a substitute, and he accepted it. In company with others, he was forwarded to the 5th Regiment; but war had no charms for him, and he soon began to look about for the means of obtaining an honourable discharge. This, however, was no easy matter. Many were the suggestions offered by his comrades, but they all proved abortive. A few months since, upon promise of receiving a commission, he sacrificed a large sum of money, which was spent in raising a company of volunteers in New York. His plan was to accept a commission, and then resign. After the company was filled up, however, he failed to get the appointment. His case was finally made known to the President, and he has now received an honourable discharge.

THE WAR IN AMERICA.

A Special Correspondent's Introduction to the Washington Court.

The special correspondent of the *Telegraph* is this week very graphic in his description of the State formalities at Washington, and of the various personages who hold the highest positions in the country. We leave it to our readers to discern whether good taste has been displayed by the writer in casting ridicule upon those persons who have at least treated him with civility, and whose political acts rather than personal qualifications it is generally the journalist's place to comment on. We give, however, the following extracts:—

The White House.

The Executive Mansion, commonly called the White House, at Washington, is, as you know, neither an imposing edifice without, nor a splendid building within. A few of the apartments are of considerable size, handsomely carpeted, richly curtained, and decorated with garish French wall-paper, and large mirrors in tasteless frames. About all the public saloons—the State apartments, I suppose I may include, without offending the dignity of Republican simplicity—there is a bare and uncomfortable look, something between that of the waiting-room at a railway terminus, the drawing-room at an hotel, and the *foyer* of an opera-house. You can tell, at a glance, that nobody lives here; that people are only passing through, and wandering up and down like the restless multitudes in the Hall of Eblis. The pervading desolation is as handsome as upholstery can make it, but it lacks solemnity, it lacks associations of historical interest. Well, you must go to the palaces of despots—to the homes of a bloated, a corrupt, and an effete oligarchy—to find such solemnity and such associations. *A d'autres*, for others the gewgaw paraphernalia of the Old World. Elsewhere seek for tapestry and stained glass—for ceilings by Lebrun, and full-lengths by Vandyke—for marbles and malachites—for Sèvres vases and golden candelabra. Such trifles would accord but ill with the stern grandeur of unadorned Republicanism. This—I mean America—is a free country. Precisely so; only, in the White House, Republicanism, so far as the furniture is concerned, doesn't wear a stern or grand or unadorned appearance. The decorations are half shabby and half tastelessly meretricious. Carpets of loud patterns, paper-hangings of spasmodic design, curtains of violent hue, looking-glasses loaded with carving, and over-simplicity make up the staple of ornamentation. Some shoddy upholsterer has here evidently had *carte blanche*, and the result is, not Quaker simplicity, but gaudy ugliness.

The Blue Parlour.

It was in the Blue Parlour, I think, that Mr. Sumner told me we should find Mr. Lincoln. We walked into the Blue Parlour as we had walked into the White House, quite unmolested and unannounced. Two mounted patrols, with drawn swords, were on duty at the entrance to the carriage-drive before the house; but they were there merely to prevent a block among the carriages, and had nothing to do with pomp or State. Their attire was as ragged, their boots as muddy, their horses as ungroomed, and their hair as unkempt as usual. There is a porter who stands in the vestibule of the White House and cracks nuts in a familiar manner. He is an old Irishman, and has seen many generations of presidents. His office, I fancy, must be one of the few which are not elected, or he would have been ousted or intrigued out of office some years ago. He asked us no questions as we passed on, and it was quite a matter of choice as to whether I should leave my hat and overcoat on a table in the hall or not. It was suggested, indeed, that I should take those articles of apparel with me, "all kinds of people" being about. "All kinds of people" were rambling from room to room, just as I had seen them rambling from corridor to corridor of the Capitol the day when Congress was opened. The sovereign people was here, and had not taken the trouble to have its boots cleaned. Why should it? The eager, anxious, sallow faces, now closely shaven, now heavily bearded, that pass before you in such interminable succession that their remembrance haunts you, and makes your nights sleepless, were here, as in every other public place in America. Faces full of meaning, full of purpose; energetic faces, determined faces, shrewd faces, cunning faces, but not pleasant faces to look upon. So pallid, so cadaverous are they, that you almost fancy you are witnessing the resurrection of those that lay in the Valley of Dry Bones. It is certain that the males among our curious cousins are fearfully unhealthy in appearance. Why don't they paint?

The Ladies of Washington.

The ladies at the White House—and there were a good many fair ones strolling hither and thither—formed a brilliant exception to the prevailing slatternliness of attire. Showy morning toilettes, French bonnets, and ermine pelerines and muffs were plentiful. The Washington ladies, I have already ventured to observe, have little to do save to eat, to dance, to dress, and to flirt. When they are tired of the hotel corridors and the hotel drawing-rooms, they dress themselves within an inch of their lives and go out. Not for a walk. Walking for ladies is almost impossible in the metropolis of mud and dust. Not to shop. The principal articles sold in Washington are cigars, whisky, newspapers, knapsacks, and seven-leagued boots for army use. The ladies pop into a passing stage and are conveyed to the Capitol. There, if they are ladies of no fashion, they sit in the galleries, or roam about the passages; but there, if they are ladies of any fashion, they send in their cards to any senator or representative with whom they happen to be acquainted, and make a morning of it. When the senator or the representative receives a lady's card, he sallies out more or less blithefully. At once he knows what it means. He knows that he is in for it. For the five hundredth time he has to exhibit the lions of the Capitol to the ladies, to take them on to the floor of the House, to take them to the ladies' lunch-room, to talk nonsense to them, and, if need be, to flirt with them. I am afraid that in England there are a good many savage and sulky M.P.'s who would resent these visits, and object to be "bored by a pack of women." An Englishman considers it to be an act of high condescension on his part if he even permits his wife to call for him at his club. Here the case is different. America is the paradise of idle women.

Introduction to Lincoln, and a Shake of his Hand.

The Blue Parlour—if blue, and a parlour it was—was somewhat, but not inconveniently, crowded. Ladies and gentlemen were filing in, smoothly and silently. I stood on tiptoe to see if I could catch a glimpse of the lady to whom I was to be presented; but in lieu thereof I became suddenly aware of a gentleman, who had no need, so tall was he, to stand on tiptoe in order to look down upon me and on the entire assemblage. And yet that assemblage, in its male portion, could number some very tall men. Mr. Sumner edged me between a couple of groups, took me into a corner where the Tallest Man of All was, said a few polite words, and the next moment my hand was in the cast-iron grip of Abraham Lincoln.

I shall never recall that memorable interview, and that more memorable hand-shaking, without the tears coming into my eyes. On this particular Saturday I felt inclined to cry like a child. What brought the aqueous humour into these callous orbs? It wasn't awe, it wasn't reverence, it wasn't sympathy for the oppressed African, it wasn't whisky, it wasn't even the fact that I was an orphan and a wanderer on the face of the earth. The tears came into my eyes simply for the reason that the President's hand-shaking was so hard and so earnest as to have reduced my own hand nearly to the consistence of pulp. We talk sometimes of a leg-of-mutton fist, of an adamantine hand. Abraham Lincoln has both. Napoleon the elder, it was said, had a hand of iron with a velvet glove; only sometimes he forgot to put his gloves on. Uncle Abe has assuredly the iron hand, the cast-steel hand, but no one could say he was gloveless. He wore on this occasion a pair of white kids, which the tallest of Barnum's four giants might have envied. As to his grip—talk to me of packing cotton bales, or screwing ocean steamers off the stocks by hydraulic pressure; amuse me with tales of the big bear of Arkansas' hardest hugs; feed me with stories of boa constrictors crushing all the bones of a goat in a single convolution; tell me about Professor Harrison, the strong man who crushes pewter pots between his fingers, and the Russian Count Orloff, who crumples up silver salvers just as Mr. Cobden said he would crumple up Russia—like a sheet of paper. Narrate to me all these facts and all these fables, but they are nought in comparison; they are zephyr breaths, fairy footsteps, butterfly persiflage, when named in company with Abraham Lincoln's grip. He doesn't smile when he takes your hand; he does not wring it like a bell, nor wave it like a flag. He merely takes it, and quietly and silently squeezes it into dough. Great results are said to follow the "putting down his foot" by the President on any public matter. If he were to "put down" his hand on me, I thought, utter and irretrievable collapse must at once follow.

The President's Personal Appearance and Character.

The general cast of Mr. Lincoln's features must be familiar to you through the photographic portraits in the London shop-windows. His actual appearance is even nearer approached by the admirable cartoon sketches by Mr. John Tenniel in *Punch*. With a curiously intuitive fidelity of appreciation, Mr. Tenniel has seized upon that lengthy face, those bushy locks, that shovel beard, that ungainly form, those long, muscular, attenuated limbs, those bony and wide-spread extremities. Mr. Lincoln is so tall that, looking up in his face, you might, did not respect forbid you, ask "how cold the weather was up there." He is so tall, that a friend who had an interview with him in his private office made use of the expression that when he rose there did not seem the slightest likelihood of his getting up ever coming to an end. He seemed to be drawing himself out like a telescope. There are two particulars, however, in which you must needs have seen Mr. Lincoln to gain an accurate idea of his appearance. He is exceedingly dark—not so dark as Mr. Hannibal Hamlin, the Vice-President, who is of so very subdued a complexion, that some spiteful Southerners have declared him to be a mulatto, or, at least, to have a "dash of the tar-brush," or negro element, in his blood—but swarthily sallow. *Il a le teint basané*, and the darkness seems due to half a hundred causes—to long exposure to rough weather; to residence in a hot climate; to natural biliousness; to anxiety, if not distress, of mind. Again, this dark face, strongly marked, livid and crowsfooted, and fringed with coarse and tangled hair, is so uncouth and so rugose that it narrowly escapes being either terrible or grotesque. A touch of the chisel one way or the other, and you would have either a Quasimodo or a Richard III. But the possible grotesque is obviated, the imminent terrible is smoothed away, by a peculiar soft, almost feminine, expression of melancholy, which, to me at least, seemed to pervade the countenance of this remarkable man. The melancholy look struck me most forcibly when I remembered that I was in the presence of the great joker of jokes—the Sancho Panza made governor of this Transatlantic Barataria; but there the look was—the regard of a thoughtful, weary, saddened, overworked man; of one who was desperately striving to do his best, but who woke up every morning to find the wheat that he had sown growing up as tares; of one who was continually regretting that he did not know more, that he *could* not know more—that he had begun his work too late, and must lay down his sceptre too early.

Mr. Lincoln does not stand straight on his feet, but sways about with an odd sidelong motion, as though he were continually pumping something from the ground—say Truth from the bottom of her well—or hauling up some invisible anchor. It gave me the notion of a mariner who had found his sea-legs, and could tie a line well, but who had to admit that there was a rough sea running. First he pulled at one gigantic glove, and then at the other; first inclined his prissant head to one side, and then to the other; but he never drew himself up to his full height. Perhaps he thought of the ceiling, and was reluctant to bring it down on the heads of us Philistines. My interview with him was of very brief duration, and was mainly made up of commonplaces. Of course, he said that he was very glad to see me, that he hoped I liked my stay, that I had come at a critical period, and that the country presented a very different aspect to that which it once had. Mr. Sumner informed him that I purposed "illustrating" in public what I had seen in America. "Ah," said the President, "indeed! with the pencil or the pen? There is a good deal to illustrate just now." I hinted that the pen was my vocation. Neither more nor less took place. I saw that Mr. Lincoln had no wish to tell me any stories, or to talk politics; and after another tremendous squeeze of the hand from him, I retired from his presence.

A Sketch of Mrs. Lincoln.

My presentations were not, however, at an end. I was taken to the centre of the apartment, where, standing in a circle of ladies, was one, short, plump, and well-favoured, and attired in a velvet dress of royal purple, profusely trimmed with pearls and lace. This was Mrs. Lincoln. I had the honour to shake her hand; but it was a little hand, and my crushed digits were spared another painful ordeal. I think I can give almost a shorthand writer's report of my conversation with Mrs. Lincoln. After the first salutations she said:—

"Do you keep your health, sir?"

I replied that I was happy and thankful to say that I enjoyed tolerable health.

"How long have you been in this country, sir?" she asked.

I said that I had been seven weeks on the American continent.

"How long do you conclude to remain, sir?" she went on.

I replied that I hoped to remain about seven months longer.

The President's wife was then good enough to ask "how I liked the country." I replied diplomatically, that it was very large and very wonderful. Now ensued a deep, and, to me, embarrassing silence. I didn't know what was to come next, and I don't think Mrs. Lincoln did. At last she spoke again, and once more in the interrogatory form:—

"And you keep your heath, sir?"

I answered this kind inquiry as best I might, when, fortuitously, it occurred to me that some years ago in Russia, having to go into much better society than I am in the habit of frequenting at home, I had sought the assistance of a dancing-mistress, and, at the outlay of about fifty roubles, learnt a series of bows, or "reverences," for grand occasions. I gave Mrs. Lincoln the very lowest of these reverences. It is a wonderful bow, and, if you don't tumble head over heels before you arrive at the climax, a very impressive one. To effect it properly your nose must very nearly touch the lowermost hem of the garment of the lady to whom you are rendering homage. I went down and down, till, I dare say, Mrs. Lincoln wondered whether the Britisher would ever come up again; but when I rose to the surface, triumphant, and with a determination of blood to my head, I could see that she was not displeased. I hope she may preserve a favourable remembrance of my bow, if not of me.

I moved slowly away, but could hear the Presidentess asking the next gentleman who was presented to her whether he "kept his health." "Do you keep your health?' evidently serves Mrs. Lincoln in the stead that *'Est-il possible?'* used to serve Prince George of Denmark.

A Remarkable Trio.—Among the notes appended to the Registrar-General's quarterly return, we find the following from Dunbar:—The mortality has been principally amongst the aged. Three persons attained the respective ages of eighty-nine, ninety-four, and ninety-seven. The first had been a marine, and fought under Nelson at the Nile and Trafalgar. He died from gangrene of the feet, and suffered comparatively little from debility or age. The second was a joiner, and had been an apprentice to Andrew Meikle, the inventor, and assisted at the erection of the first thrashing-mill in Scotland. The third had been a domestic servant, and was able to go about till within a few months of her death. Her father and grandfather attained nearly the same age as herself. She had conversed with the latter, who witnessed the entry of William and Mary into London in 1688, while the former was present at that of the Pretender into Edinburgh in 1745. She remembered the building of the North-bridge, and the erection of the first house in the New Town of Edinburgh—was in service with a family there, where Burns, then in the zenith of his fame, was a frequent guest.

TRIAL OF THE ITALIAN CONSPIRATORS IN PARIS.

The trial of the four Italian conspirators came on at Paris on Thursday morning. Admission was only to be obtained by tickets. The First President of the Imperial Court, who takes judicial rank next after the President of the Imperial Court, was the presiding judge. The prisoners had all a marked Italian type, and their dark complexions contrasted strikingly with those of the gendarmes, between two of whom each prisoner sat in the dock. They had all black hair, nearly of the same shade. Greco has abundance of silky black hair, carefully brushed and parted, a slight black moustache, and tuft upon the chin, the rest of the face being cleanly shaved; a thin aquiline nose, capacious forehead, and large flashing eyes. Trabucco, the oldest of the party (he is upwards of forty), is a coarser-looking man than the others; but he has a decided *vis comica*, and in the course of the day laughed a good deal, and caused much laughter in others. Imperatori is a slim young man, with no particular expression of countenance, but seems intelligent. Sciaglioni, the youngest of the band, looked forlorn, and less at his ease than the others. They were respectably dressed, and were all calm and self-possessed. In the body of the court, between the bench and the witnesses' bar, and just halfway between the prisoners and the jury, was the table on which were displayed the *pièces de conviction*, *i. e.*, the bombs, gunpowder, percussion caps, gun canes, revolvers, poniards, &c., which were seized at the prisoners' lodgings, together with the small black leather bags in which the arms were concealed. The murderous weapons were examined with great curiosity by all who were near enough to approach them. The proceedings commenced by reading the indictment. In all essential particulars they admitted everything charged in the indictment. Greco, in few words, or by affirmative nods, responded to the questions of the judge, and without any affectation of remorse, or attempt at extenuation, confessed that he came to Paris with the intention of taking the Emperor's life under the circumstances described by the prosecution. When asked whether he had not formed his plan in concert with Mazzini, he said, "Naturally so." He explained that he called upon Prince Murat's secretary for the purpose of putting the police off the scent, and that he had a good excuse for doing so, because his father had rendered services to King Murat. It was a mistake in the indictment to say that Mazzini gave him money when he first came to Paris last spring, because he then paid his expenses from his patrimony, but he admitted that Mazzini gave him 1,800f. at Lugano, when he was coming to Paris the second time, with his three accomplices, and that Mazzini afterwards sent him 2,000f. and 1,000f. to Paris in bank notes. He asserted that four of the bombs were sent to him directly from London, and that the six others were given him in Lugano by a friend of Mazzini, whose name he would not mention. He only brought eight to France, and he left two at Lugano with a friend, whose name he also refused to mention. The first revolvers sent to him were too big to be carried in the pocket conveniently, and he therefore had them changed. When asked why he charged the bombs on the day of his arrest, he answered, somewhat dramatically, "because the hour approached." Trabucco's examination began by his being asked whether he understood what Greco had said, and whether he admitted the truth of it. He replied, "Yes, it is all true." On being asked why he joined the plot, he made a speech with great animation, the substance of which was that being unable to get his living in Italy by his profession as a player on the horn, and being in great distress and utterly without money, he met with Greco, who relieved him, and proposed to him to join in the plot. That he (Trabucco) was a patriot who had fought for his dear General Garibaldi, and that his head being heated by all that the journals said of the brigandage in the Neapolitan States, which was fostered by Rome under the protection of a French army, he was moved by pity for the widows and orphans made by brigandage. He was opposed to war, and professed to be a particularly humane man (much laughter); but he, being in distress, and his head being heated by the journals, as he said before, he did, when Greco showed him a bomb and said, "This is justice," rejoin, "That's true," and he consented to come to Paris and join the plot. Trabucco in the course of his little speech, which, though rambling and full of repetitions, was not devoid of a certain rude eloquence, said that Italy, in consequence of the occupation of Rome and Venice, was a "dead body," "without head or frontiers." The Emperor of the French, although he was the father of a family, for he was the father of a whole nation, had shut his eyes to the miseries of Italy, caused by the occupation of Rome. Well, he (Trabucco), when he saw his poor country given over to brigands, had also shut his eyes—he was in despair. Here he exclaimed, "I have a ball in my breast for [illegible] Napoleon is President," and quitting the action to the word he unbuttoned first his coat, then his waistcoat, and then his shirt, and laying quite bare a very hairy chest, pointed to a wound he had received while fighting with Garibaldi. The judge asked him what were the journals which had heated his head, as he said? Trabucco instantly replied, "All the Italian journals. Everybody in Italy knows about Aspromonte and the brigandage kept up by Rome." The judge asked him whether he had not been sentenced in London to a year's imprisonment for theft. He replied, with great indignation, that he was not condemned for theft, but only for pawning a friend's watch. He was a horn-player in Lord Ranelagh's rifle volunteers, and one day, being pressed for money, he had pawned a friend's watch, not thinking any harm, but his sentence was three months, and not a year, and the watch was restored. The judge observed that, at any rate, the English tribunal had considered his conduct tantamount to a robbery. In conclusion, Trabucco endeavoured to establish that, after he came to Paris, he repented of the project. In a very comic manner he said to the judge: "I don't like to ask those three gentlemen (meaning the other prisoners) myself what I said to them (at a time and place which he named), but I wish you would ask them." The judge told him to state himself what he did say.—Trabucco: Well, I said that we were watched, and that it would be better to give up the scheme and go away.—Greco, on being appealed to by the court, denied that Trabucco had said anything of the kind; all he had said was, that they were suspected, that it was necessary to be very prudent, and desirable to change their hotel.—Imperatori, in his examination, admitted his participation in the plot; but said he entered into it originally with hesitation, repented afterwards, and would never have left Lugano but for the pressure exercised upon him by Greco, who told him that his life would be in danger if he remained, and, in fact, putting out two fingers, said, "Your only chance lies between dying here or there." Imperatori further protested that when in France, although he had brought two bombs in his carpet-bag, he never meant to execute the plot, and always hoped either to dissuade Greco from his purpose, or to escape from him. On being told by the judge that although he had at first told this story, he had afterwards denied it, he said that he now persisted in his original statement, and that the reason why he had contradicted himself was that he had been brought to think he had an interest in concealing the truth, because the Judge of Instruction had told him that his story of having been forced by intimidation to leave Lugano for Paris was not credible. Greco denied the truth of all Imperatori's excuses, and maintained that he persevered in the plot up to the last moment. Sciaglioni said nothing of importance. The examination of the prisoners being over, witnesses were called. Several police officers, hotel-keepers, waiters, and servants, proved the facts stated in the indictment relative to the conduct of the prisoners in Paris, their constant examination of the places where the Emperor was likely to be found, and the circumstances of their arrest. Neither the prisoners nor their counsel attempted to contest any of these circumstances. One of the hotel-keepers said that Greco always appeared to him as the master of the others, and he had considered Imperatori to be his interpreter, and the other two his servants. A lady who managed the Hotel de Naples, No. 17, Rue St. Honoré, deposed that one day Sciaglioni was drunk and violent, and threatened to go away, and that Greco upbraided him severely, and seemed very anxious lest he should really leave. Ranciot, a hairdresser, of the Rue Grange Batelière, deposed to Trabucco having come to his shop to be shaved, and staying there for three hours. The object of this evidence was to prove the allegation of the indictment that the prisoners lingered about the approaches to the opera. On this occasion Ranciot, who had seen Trabucco now and then two years ago, asked him to eat a bit with him, and the judge reproached Ranciot rather severely for having, in his examination before the commissary of police, suppressed the fact of his intimacy with Trabucco. An Englishman named Thomas Howard, who keeps a coffee-house in the Haymarket, was then called as a witness, and came forward accompanied by an interpreter, but he had scarcely uttered the words "I know Trabucco," when the Procureur-General rose, and said that he had received information from London which had decided him to renounce his testimony. The Procureur-General said that Howard was called to prove a very seditious expression, alleged to have been uttered by Trabucco in his café, but that for the reason already given his evidence would be dispensed with. Devisme, the armourer, was then called to give evidence as to the nature of the bombs and other weapons seized. He said that the bombs were most terrible things. They were made of zinc, and so constructed as to explode with certainty. He had tried them with percussion caps (without loading them) as many as twenty times, and whether upon boarding, pavement, asphalte, or macadam, they never once failed to explode, two or three caps at a minimum always going off. He had tried two of the bombs fully charged with powder. This was a rather dangerous experiment. To try it he had gone into a lone place in the country, and thrown the bombs through an aperture, dropping them down into a vaulted tunnel. In this tunnel he had placed some wine casks with thick iron hoops round them. The two bombs had smocked one of the casks all to pieces, and bored great holes in others. Large pieces of stone in the arches of the tunnel were chipped out by the fragments of the bombs. One of the bombs exploded into forty-one, and the other into forty-six fragments. Several of the fragments were produced. He had never seen any more terrible explosive force. Every one of these fragments was deadly. Being asked by the judge if he could tell where the bombs were made, he said he could not; but that one man with some zinc and a stove could make them in any common room. These formidable weapons are only as big as a cricket ball. The revolver, Devisme said, was a poor weapon, which would neither carry true nor far; and he did not think the cane-gun could be used at all; but the poniards were so constructed as to give very bad wounds, by causing internal hemorrhage. He thought the poniards were of German manufacture, but could not be sure. Revoil, a professor of chemistry, deposed that he had examined the points of the poniards, which had evidently been steeped in a gummy substance which was probably a volatile poison; but that he was unable to find any poison now, and had tried the oxides on several animals without producing any poisonous effects. Greco said the poniards were given to him in the state in which they were found, and denied having poisoned the points himself. The Procureur-General, however, said that a pot of gum was found among Greco's things, and asked him whether he had not formerly been a chemist's assistant, but this Greco denied. He was asked whether he did not once ask a chemist in Italy what was the best poison in which to steep a weapon, and whether he was not told hydrocyanic acid; but this he also denied. De la Rue, aged sixty-four, an expert in handwriting, having been heard, Greco and Trabucco were sentenced to be transported for life, and Imperatori and Sciaglioni to twenty years' imprisonment.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Marquis of Westmeath, referring to the conspiracy to assassinate the Emperor of the French, asked if her Majesty's Government were convinced that Mazzini, or any other foreigner in this country was privy to the plot, and whether they had not the power, under the Alien Act, to deal with such persons.

Earl Russell stated that he was not in a position to say that Mazzini or any other person in this country was a party to this detestable crime. Having no knowledge of the existence of any conspiracy in this country, and having no power under the Alien Act such as had been inferred, he could only say that he was not prepared to take any steps in the matter.

Earl Granville produced the report of the joint committee on metropolitan railways, and said that all the recommendations, with one exception, were unanimous.

The Earl of Ellenborough gave notice for Friday next of a question to her Majesty's Government as to whether any steps had been taken towards affording, if necessary, material assistance to Denmark.

The Insane Prisoners' Act Amendment Bill, which has passed the lower House, was discussed, and read a second time.

The House then adjourned.

In the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. Dalglish, Mr. Layard said with reference to the circumstances of a steamer plated with 4½ inch armour having been launched from the yard of the builders of the Pampero, and said to be the property of the Danish Government, that shortly before hostilities broke out the Danish minister informed Lord Russell that this vessel was building in the yard in question, and offered to stop her construction, but eventually it was arranged that if the Danish minister would give his word that the vessel would not leave this country she should be allowed to be finished so far as to get her off the stocks, but she was now detained until hostilities should cease.

In answer to Mr. Goddard,

Sir G. Grey said that he believed it was the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to bring on his financial statement shortly after Easter. It was subsequently stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the day would be the 7th of April.

In answer to Mr. Cox,

Mr. Stansfeld said in reference to a statement made by the Public Prosecutor in Paris on the trial of the Italian conspirators, that Greco was to apply for money to an address which was the same as his, that he could not express his astonishment and indignation that such an accusation should be made against him in a matter which could only be viewed with execration by him. He bore his testimony from an intimate personal knowledge of eighteen years to the character of Mazzini, and he pledged himself personally that it was impossible for that gentleman to be implicated in a plot of the kind in question.

Mr. Cox said he did not expect that Mr. Stansfeld would enter into any defence of Mazzini; but all he asked was an explanation of the fact of the address of the hon. gentleman being given as one at which Greco could apply and to a person named Flower.

Mr. Stansfeld said he had not and never had any knowledge of anything connected with the matter in question. He had no knowledge of any Mr. Flower.

Mr. Disraeli took the opportunity of asking some questions with regard to the relations of this country with the confederate Powers. He understood that her Majesty's Government had succeeded in obtaining the consent of several of the great Powers to a conference on the Danish question. He was of opinion that conferences under circumstances like the present, when hostilities were going on, were seldom other than failures, inducing as they must be by unexpected events. If the conferences went on time would be consumed, and with the spring Europe would naturally turn to France to settle the question, which all the efforts of England had failed to adjust; and the result would probably be in what would be called a rectification of the map of the continent. Whatever might occur, it would be owing to the blundering policy of the Government, and but for which there would now be no question of the integrity and independence of Denmark.

Lord Palmerston said that the right hon. gentleman was never so happy as when attacking an absent man. Having in the last few days devoted himself to the study of the Danish papers, and finding nothing in them on which to found an attack on Lord Russell, he had been obliged to fall back on the transactions of nine years ago for that purpose—transactions in which his noble friend had ably and faithfully performed the duty he took on himself, that of endeavouring to obtain peace. The purpose of her Majesty's Government from first to last had been to conciliate differences, to modify exacerbation, and to bring about a peaceable settlement of the matters in question.

Mr. S. Fitzgerald complained that not a word of the information asked with respect to the proposed conference had been afforded, and urged that the House had a right to know in what position the negotiations with regard to the conference now stood, what Powers had agreed to join in it, and on what specific bases it was to be conducted.

The House then went into committee of supply on the navy estimates, resuming at the consideration of the first vote.

The votes of 71,950 men, of £2,874,417 for their wages, £1,304,129 for victualling them, after discursive and critical debate, were passed.

On the vote of £168,000 for the Admiralty-office,

Mr. Lindsay moved the reduction of the vote by £5,200, the salaries of the five junior lords of the Admiralty—his object being to do away with the board.

On a division, the amendment was negatived by 109 to 10, and the vote agreed to; as was £300,718 for Coast Guard, Naval Coast Volunteers, and Naval Reserve.

On the vote of £71,276 for the scientific branch,

Mr. A. Smith moved the reduction of the vote by £2,300, the charge for a school of naval architecture.

On a division the amendment was negatived by 100 to 15, and the vote agreed to; as were £192,374 for establishments at home, and £37,668 for establishments abroad, after which the House resumed.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Marquis of Clanricarde moved for copies of any reports received by her Majesty's Government respecting recruiting in Ireland for the Federal American army, and asked whether any remonstrance against such proceedings had been made to the Federal Government. He urged that it was notorious that agents had been enlisting recruits in Ireland, and this was a gross violation of international law and a distinct breach of neutrality. He reminded the House that, as late as 1823, this was an offence which was punishable by death.

Earl Russell said that any attempt to enlist recruits in Ireland by the Federal agents was a breach of neutrality, and was an offence against the municipal law of this country. Whenever such an offence could be proved the offenders deserved punishment, and stringent remonstrances should be made to the Federal Government on the subject. He had on more than one occasion complained that a system of recruiting was going on in Ireland on behalf of the Federal States, but Mr. Adams indignantly denied that there was any truth in the statement, and on that denial he (Lord Russell) was obliged to pause until evidence could be obtained of the fact of the recruiting.

The Earl of Donoughmore observed that the conduct of the Government in the matter contrasted most unfavourably with the course they had taken in the affair of the steam rams.

The Earl of Derby asked if the Government had received information from the authorities at Dublin and Cork that persons were in the habit of drilling and learning military exercise in those towns; and whether any steps had been taken to put a stop to such proceedings.

Earl Granville said that the authorities in Dublin had directed the police to watch the proceedings of the Fenian Brotherhood. There was, however, reason to believe that it was an absurd and innocuous organisation.

The House then adjourned.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Marsh moved, "That the Civil Service and Miscellaneous Estimates have been for many years rapidly increased, and ought to be reduced." He showed the relative amounts between 1835 and the present time, arguing that the public now paid eight millions more than in the former period in taxation, and there was no equiv

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

An agent from the Northern States of America is said to be in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, offering inducements to miners and mechanics to emigrate to the States.

The *Pays* is polite enough to describe the English Government as the "Pontius Pilate" of politics, having no other part to play than to wash its hands, no matter what happens.

Mr. G. N. Taylor, of the Madras Civil Service, has been appointed provisional member of the Governor-General's Council in India. He will be the first Madras civilian who has ever had a seat in the Governor-General's Council.

We regret to hear that Mr. Wemyss, the member for Fifeshire, is in such a state of health that it is doubtful whether he will be able to return to his Parliamentary duties.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce have adopted a memorial to Lord Palmerston in favour of a more efficient action by the Board of Trade or the Foreign-office in commercial questions.

It is said that Mr. Dyce felt the Parliamentary Committee's censure of him for his delay in executing the frescoes of the House of Commons very severely, and, being highly sensitive as well as ambitious, he dwelt on this imputation upon his spirit and ability.

The division list of the rams debate, as it is given in the Parliamentary Papers, shows that Mr. Robert Bateson Harvey appears both in the majority and in the minority, as though he were "two gentlemen in one," according to "Mrs. Malaprop."

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire has appointed Tuesday, the 8th of March, for the nomination of the candidates to represent that place in Parliament. The only candidate at present is Mr. H. Cowper.

The election for the county of Dorset took place at the Town-hall, Dorchester, on Saturday morning. Mr. John Floyer, of Stafford-house, who was the only candidate, was proposed by Mr. J. Farquharson, and seconded by General Sir John Michael. The proposition was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Floyer was declared to be duly elected.

It is argued that the Government has broken faith by expending a quarter of a million of money in the purchase of timber, after giving a promise that no more wooden ships should be built until the Royal Oak and Prince Consort should be tested by a cruise. The timber was for the inner casing of iron vessels.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli gave his first Parliamentary dinner this session on Saturday evening at Grosvenor-gate. There were present the Earl of Lucan, the Earl of Verulam, Viscount Hamilton, the Earl of Beetive, Lord Colville, the Hon. Frederick Lygon, the Hon. Percy Wyndham, Sir Brook Bridges, Sir John Walsh, Sir Henry Stracey, Sir William Miles, Mr. Ormsby Gore, Mr. Thomas Baring, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Archdall, Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, and Mr. Dawson.

Sir Henry Bulwer still lingers in Paris. Many readings of his stay are given, says the *Court Journal* —personal affairs, health, the Church question, Danubian Principalities, sounding the French Government about Denmark, and even the embassy at Paris. The choice is large, and the speculative in *on dits* can select the most probable cause of the baronet being a *détenu* in the gay capital.

Another Pretender to the Duchies.—The *Cologne Gazette* mentions the rumour of a project which is at the present moment gaining consistency in Germany, but which would meet with many difficulties in its realisation. "Count de Bismarck," it says, "appears to be in accord with Austria to exclude the Prince of Augustenburg from the sovereignty of Schleswig-Holstein, and those States would be given to the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who in return would cede the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg to Prussia."

Mr. Baillie Cochrane, M.P., figures in a Romish paper as "Mr. Cockrane, M.P., and Deputy to the Chamber of Commons of London." The Roman writer has evidently not been aware of the exact value of the initials M.P., which he takes to mean that Mr. Cochrane is in the Church, for he distinctly mentions "Il Signor Cockrane, Ministro Protestante."

On the motion of Lord Hotham, an address to the Crown was agreed on in the House of Commons on the 19th ult., for a copy of any letter or memorandum other than Paper 406 (1863), already printed, signed by the Adjutant-General of the Forces, to the Commander-in-Chief in India, in which his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief modified his opinion on the remarks of Sir Hugh Rose, &c. This is the paper which the Commander-in-Chief declined to produce at the court-martial on Colonel Crawley, and which led to so much discussion and remark.

Sir F. Kelly's bill, which waits for a second reading, proposes the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal. Under the Act of 1848, questions of law arising on the trial of a prisoner may already be reserved for the consideration of five or more of the judges, but this bill proposes a large extension of their jurisdiction. If any person convicted of treason or felony can obtain the certificate of a barrister that there is reasonable ground to appeal, a motion may be made upon affidavit or otherwise for a new trial, or leave to enter an acquittal. The motion may be made either before one of the superior Courts, or before this "Court of Criminal Appeal," but it is this last Court that is to hear the rule argued if it be granted, and to dispose of the case. A new trial may be ordered, or the trial of a particular question of fact, as, for instance, insanity. If a prisoner on being convicted declares his intention to appeal, the judge may either postpone pronouncing sentence, or pronounce sentence conditionally, and, if he thinks fit, release the prisoner on recognisance with or without sureties, or he may pronounce sentence to be executed as if no appeal were to be made. The bill allows any person to apply to the Court on behalf of the convict "at any time after his conviction," upon the ground of his insanity either at the time when he was tried or at any time afterwards.

THE SEIZURE OF THE TUSCALOOSA.

The commander of this Confederate cruiser, lately seized by the authorities at the Cape of Good Hope, has forwarded the following protest to Sir Philip Wodehouse, K.C.B., governor of that colony: "Confederate States' Ship Tuscaloosa, Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Dec. 28, 1863. Sir,—As officer in command of the Confederates States' Ship Tuscaloosa, tender to the Confederate States' steamer Alabama, I have to record my protest against the extraordinary measures which have been adopted towards me and the vessel under my command by the British authorities of the colony. In August last the Tuscaloosa arrived in Simon's Bay; she was not only recognised in the character which she lawfully claimed, and still claims to be, viz., a commissioned ship of war belonging to a belligerent Power, but was allowed to remain in the harbour for the period of five days, taking in supplies and effecting repairs with the full knowledge and sanction of the authorities. No intimation was given that she was regarded merely in the light of an ordinary prize, or that she was considered to be violating the laws of neutrality, nor, when she notoriously left for a cruise on active service, was any intimation whatever conveyed that on her return to the port of a friendly Power, where she had been received as a man-of-war, she would be regarded as a 'prize,' as a violator of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, and consequently liable to seizure. Misled by the conduct of her Majesty's Government, I returned to Simon's Bay on the 26th inst., in very urgent need of repairs and supplies. To my surprise, I find the Tuscaloosa is now no longer considered as a man-of-war, and she has, by your orders, as I learn, been seized for the purpose of being handed over to the person who claims her on the behalf of her late owners. The character of the vessel, viz., that of a lawful commissioned ship of war of the Confederate States of America, has not been altered since her first arrival in Simon's Bay; and she having been once fully recognised by the British authorities in command in this colony, and no notice or warning of change of opinion or of friendly feeling having been communicated by public notification or otherwise, I was entitled to expect to be again permitted to enter Simon's Bay without molestation. In perfect good faith I returned to Simon's Bay for mere necessaries, and in all honour and good faith in return I should, on change of opinion or of policy on the part of the British authorities, have been desired to leave that port again; but, by the course of proceedings taken, I have been —supposing the view now adopted by your Excellency's Government to be correct—firstly, misled, and then entrapped. My position and the character of my ship will most certainly be vindicated by my Government. I am powerless to resist the affront offered to the Confederate States of America by your Excellency's conduct and proceedings. I demand, however, the release of my ship, and if this demand be not promptly complied with, I hereby formally protest against her seizure, especially under the very peculiar circumstances of the case.—I have, &c., J. Lowe, Commanding C.S.S. Tuscaloosa."

It will be seen that Lord Palmerston asserted in the House of Commons that the Government had ordered the release of this vessel.

The Bull and the Train.—A few days ago a bull which was standing at Milnathort railway station became excited and broke from his keepers, running along the Fife and Kinross Railway towards Ladybank at a fearful rate. Instant chase was given, but the infuriated animal rushed on for about two miles, till, on nearing Mawcarse station, it observed a train coming up. This apparently increased the bull's fury, for he at once bent down his head and prepared to do battle with the approaching engine. His boldness, however, was shortlived, for in a few moments the train came down upon him, and, as may be supposed, he was killed on the spot. No injury resulted to the train or the passengers.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

The Waterloo of 1864.—A Loyal Lay.

(From the *Field*.)

The sun shone bright o'er Altcar plains; Earl Sefton came that day
To hail his brethren of the leash, with all their proud array.
Right well the noble earl did rein his gallant four-in-hand,
While the welkin rang with plaudits to the lord of all the land.

There stood the laird of Thorlieshope (prince of all coursers he),
With *Innocence* and *Owersby* to strive for victory.
And there was Ivie Campbell, with the strain of *Beacon* bold,
Whose prowess on these famous plains will oft be proudly told!

And Randell came from Worcestershire, *Don Felix* bore his name,
Whose manly brow on many fields has worn the wreath of fame.
Lord Binning, young and graceful, too, displayed brave *Donald's* power;
Lord Grey de Wilton challenged all with David's son *Glendower*.

Gregson and Lister both appeared with *Roaring Meg* and *Chloe*;
From Erin's Isle Lord Largan came with son of Sweeny Boy.
John Blackstock came from Cumberland, but *Beckford* could not stay,
Nor Jefferson's *Imperatrice* on the decisive day.

John Gibson's *Golf* struck boldly out to win him envied fame,
But *Retribution* gained the race, and quenched the sporting flame.
Ah! why did *Owersby* stumble? he threw the chance away:
No better dog contended for the honours of the day.

Course after course was over—the people held their breath:
The beauteous *Innocence* was matched with Coquetdale's *King Death!*
A thrill of expectation was over all the field!
Who may contend with such a foe? The maid was forced to yield.

Brave *Baron Nicholson* came on; but his relentless foe
With Border fire consumed his chance, and laid his honours low.
Then forth stood *Master Sweeny* to strive for Largan's lord;
The Pale King's fire flamed in the van, and Erin's pride was floored.

Imperatrice essayed in vain to win the victor's bay;
*King Death** strode on—the race he won; no power could his gainsay.
But here comes gallant *Robe*: ah! Raper, slip them well!
The final race must now be run; *King Death* is hard to quell.

Swift as the wind, with equal pace they fly across the plain:
They reach a drain; a leap—a kill—*King Death* maintains his reign!
Ah! who can stand before King Death? The great alike and small!
Must yield to him in every race: the Pale King conquers all.

The Cup was borne to Coquetdale, the Purse old Campbell scored:
The Plate, by fav'ring chance, was won by *Rainbow's* gallant lord.
Long live the patron of the leash, proud Croxteth's noble host!
With "three times three" we'll honour him whene'er his name we toast.

* The winner of the Waterloo Cup.

A Valuable Horse.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* gives the following:—The Emperor buys most of his horses in England—many of them in Manchester. Lately Baron Fleury was in the latter city, purchasing for the Imperial stud. An animal was brought out fit for a king. "Fine breezy stepper, Count," says Mr. Dealer. "Look well in Bois." "An Imperial horse all over, I should say." Count mounts, rides, likes, and then asks the price. "Seven hundred to you, Count." is the startling reply. "Seven hundred!" exclaims M. Fleury, with the fear of M. Fould before his eyes; "it is awful!" "We think nothing of that figure here," says the dealer. "Now here comes Mr. Pods—Pods and Potter—one of our sporting men. Morning, Mr. Pods. Just throw your leg over that 'oss—one of your sort." "Monsieur Pods (says Count Fleury, when he tells the story), did throw his leg over him. 'How much?' says he. 'Seven hundred,' says the dealer. 'Send him home,' replies Pods, and I lost the horse for his Majesty."

CULTIVATION OF COTTON IN EGYPT.

Commercial Prospects of the Country.

A correspondent of a contemporary, writing from Egypt, says:—

"The main canal of irrigation from Siout to Ghizeh, which is to convert Upper Egypt into a cotton-growing country, has been vigorously attacked throughout its length, each district working upon its own section; next year the full depth will be excavated, and the lateral branches dug. The quantity of cotton which will be grown it is thought will equal that now produced by Lower Egypt.

"The loss of the millet crops in Central Egypt through the last inundation, by compelling the fellahs to substitute wheat in place of their usual diet, has produced a scarcity in Cairo, and in Alexandria prices of grain and beans have risen enormously. The Viceroy, to guard against a higher rise and consequent distress to the poor, has ordered all his own stock to Cairo, where it is being retailed gradually in small lots day by day, and in this manner he hopes to be able to feed the city until next harvest. Here, it is thought, we may have to import from abroad. Provisions of every kind are becoming progressively dearer, and Government is importing sheep from Odessa by steamers, and dispatching them by rail to Cairo, where they are slaughtered and sold at cost price to the inhabitants. Every facility is afforded to importers to encourage them to bring in sheep, and, where practicable, the Government steamers have orders to carry them gratuitously. It is a strange thing to see this land of abundance forced to seek abroad for its daily food.

"Enormous orders for lighters and steam-tugs have been given by Government to meet the wants of trade, and the Government engineer, Linant Bey, is busily engaged with plans for the new Custom-house and docks. Both the import and export trade have increased so immensely as to require a total change in the system which has hitherto been found, if not convenient, at all events sufficient to allow of the proper discharging and loading of ships. But a new day has come, and the Viceroy says he hopes to see the time when the commerce of Alexandria will demand of him his palace of Ras-et-Tin, to build there docks and warehouses. The bar to many great ideas and improvements now under consideration is the want of money. The large debts left by Said Pasha, and the loss of the cattle, which are being replaced at an enormous cost, sadly hamper his Highness in his good intentions.

"The army is being employed in many works which have till now been effected by forced labour. Encampments of soldiers may now be seen along the line of railway, working under the guidance of their officers at the embankments and permanent way. Their rations of meat and bread are regularly brought to them, and they appear to be quite contented and comfortable. It is the same at the island El Gezirah, where the Viceroy is embellishing his gardens and park, and, I believe, connecting it with Ghizeh by an embankment for the railway from Cairo to Upper Egypt. This is, of course, a great relief to the fellahs, who are working hard to prepare their land for the next cotton crop; only twenty days now remain, by which time all the seed must be in the ground. Every kind of animal is pressed into the service—camels and donkeys, horses and oxen, sometimes even men, are yoked to the ploughs. Unfortunately, but few steam-ploughs have arrived; hundreds are on the way, but they will be too late for this season."

The Rev. Walter Field, M.A., has been collated to the vicarage of Godmersham with Challock, in the county of Kent and diocese of Canterbury, void by the death of the Rev. T. H. Gale; and the Rev. John Falcon, B.A., has been licensed to the curacy of Lenham, in the same county and diocese.

A Veteran Elector at the Poll.—Amongst the voters who polled at the recent Brighton election was General Sir Arthur Clifton, of Barton, near Nottingham. Though ninety-two years of age, the gallant veteran walked to the poll and gave his vote in favour of the Conservative candidate.

A Lady with Brown Hair Wanted!—The following is from a Manchester paper:—"A gentleman, aged 40, foreigner, in tolerably good circumstances, wishes to meet with a young English lady not over twenty-four, good figure, lady-like manners, brown hair, domestic habits, amiable disposition, and to have sufficient money or income to supply her own demands. Money is less the object, if the other qualities suit. None, unless highly respectable, need answer.—Address confidential letters to E. H., Post-office, Alexander-place, Brompton.—Advertiser cannot answer letters to initials only, as the Post-office does not deliver (poste-restante) such letters, except by consent of the postmaster."

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

The Musical Society of London.—The first trial of new orchestral compositions took place in the Hanover-square-rooms last week. From some error, the hour at which it was announced to begin was, on the tickets, half-past eight; while on the programme issued in the room, it was eight o'clock precisely. This uncertainty as to the real time caused very many of the audience to arrive during the performance of the symphony, which suffered greatly in consequence. The solos, overtures, the concerto on the flute, all seemed to please. Perhaps, the cleverest work of the whole evening's performance was Mr. Harold Thomas's overture. It displayed a creditable attempt at originality, and in the instrumentation he has been very successful.

Philharmonic Concerts.—The 52nd season of this admirably managed institution began on February 29th with a concert of more than ordinary interest. The 29th of February being the anniversary of Rossini's birth, the name of the gifted Italian composer appeared in the programme more frequently than on any other occasion in the records of the society. Two of his dramatic overtures were included, and all the vocal pieces were selected from his operas.

The only new song which we know to have been introduced during the past week is, "I enter thy Garden of Roses." The words are by Lord Byron, and are prettily set to music by M. Kurtz. In instrumental music, the "Marguerite Galop," the "Bolero Waltz," and a military quadrille, by George Gretton, are amongst the most attractive of the week.

It has been decided that the Outram statue shall be erected in London. The people of Derby hope to become the possessors of it.

Mr. Perry, the artist who was commissioned by the Queen to carve a bust of Shakespeare from the Herne Oak, has been ordered by the Prince of Wales to execute a similar bust, a little smaller, for his Royal Highness.

The learned archæologists have been discussing the fact that learned navvies who have a taste for antiquities, and a more practical turn in using them, have been fabricating antiquities to a great extent of late, and have always a good stock on hand of the choicest quality, for sale to the innocent professors and amateurs.

The wealthy natives of Bombay have subscribed a fund of one lac and 75,000 rupees, for the purpose of establishing a Fellowship in connection with the University of Bombay, to be called the "Canning Fellowship," in order to perpetuate the memory of the late Lord Canning.

In support of the Shakespeare tercentenary festival, that held by Spain in honour of Lope de Vega is referred to. This fertile dramatist wrote his first play at the age of eleven, and his last at the age of seventy-three, and during this period wrote more than 1,500 dramas. Twenty-four hours was his allotted time for turning out a comedy—a power of producing "copy" which ought to have made a fortune for the author.

The arrangements for the Mulready Exhibition at the South Kensington Museum are sufficiently advanced to enable it to be opened to the public on Saturday the 12th of March. The private view will take place on the 11th. Great liberality has been shown by the proprietors of Mr. Mulready's works, headed by her Majesty and H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, in consenting to lend them for exhibition, and a large collection of his finished pictures, sketches, studies, and drawings, arranged as far as possible in chronological order, will be displayed on the walls of a portion of the Museum Galleries.

The City of Antwerp will have its festival in the course of the year, for it is going to celebrate the two hundred years' anniversary of the foundation of its Academy of Fine Arts. David Teniers, the Antwerp painter, was the founder of this institution in 1664. It is planned that a museum, containing works of living artists, is to be connected with the Academy, and opened on the occasion of this festival.

Shakespeare Tercentenary.—The first monthly part of Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin's national work, the "Illustrated Shakespeare," has now made its appearance. A contemporary, speaking of this work, says, "In the first number of 'Cassell's Illustrated Shakespeare' we have the promise of a cheap and beautiful edition of the poet. The type is good, the paper creamy, the pictorial embellishment lavish. The editors are Mr. and Mrs. Cowden Clarke; the artist is Mr. H. C. Selous. All this looks well for the prosperity of an edition upon which the publishers are evidently expending all their resources."

Mr. John Forster's long-promised "Biography of Sir John Elliot" will be published in a few days, in two volumes.

In memory of the late Lord Canning, a "Canning Fellowship" is to be founded in the University of Bombay by some wealthy natives of that city.

Energetic steps are being taken towards the establishment of a Free Public Library at Edinburgh, on the model, as its advocates state, of that at Liverpool, or at Manchester. It is proposed to purchase the old General Post-office, in Waterloo-place, for this purpose.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

The dresses for paying visits are extremely elegant just now, satin and velvet being in greater favour than any other material—we presume owing to the fact that no other can well be trimmed with fur. With velvet, ermine berthe pelerines are worn, however. Of course, for young ladies such a rich toilette is out of the question; for them taffetas is more suitable.

Moire dresses are not very much seen. Chenille fringe is still very fashionable. It is put on round the skirt, leaving rather more than two inches at the bottom; and the body is trimmed with the same, put on in vesto fashion—for the vesto, real or imitated, retains its long-held sway. The fringe is also placed round the top and bottom of the sleeves.

For the more dressy toilettes, as well as for others, sleeves are still made quite small.

Mantles, rotondes, or paletots, are made of the same material as the dress, or in black velvet. We cannot but recommend the latter as a more becoming style; indeed, such extreme monotony as is produced when the toilette is all of the same colour fails in elegance.

In-door vestes are made sometimes of white cachemire, trimmed with plaid fringe, which produces a very pretty effect. With vestes, waistcoats are made of the same material, or chemisettes of foulard are worn. The latter is the most elegant; it more suitably replaces the muslin or lace chemisette worn in summer, but which is too thin for the present season; and, indeed, white Indian foulard has a great advantage in being becoming to all complexions—there is such a brilliancy about it. For more simple, and yet, perhaps, not less pretty, chemisettes, we recommend corn-flower blue, Solferino, or sky-blue foulard.

We may expect a change, not only in materials, but in the shapes of the spring bonnets. At present there is little or no change—satin or velvet for ordinary wear, crape or tulle, mixed with velvet, for visiting dress. The newest bonnets are narrower than ever at the cheeks; it is called the diadem shape, and, in fact, when carried to the extreme, forms little more than a diadem head-dress in front. Our leading modistes, however, will not adopt anything so outré and unbecoming. The new violet, or, I should say, ophelia, as that is its present name, will be much worn this spring; it is a return to the old violet, much redder than that of the last two years.

Amongst the newest bonnets was one made of crape ophelia, trimmed with feathers to match, and a white aigrette. Another had a small bird placed on a bouillon of tulle. And a third, of the same coloured crape, was entirely covered with a light black tulle, and trimmed with plisaés of violet silk.

Drawn bonnets are very much worn, and are made generally of crape or tulle and silk. A very pretty and simple bonnet was of green crape and silk trimmed with black velvet and rosebuds.

Toquets of velvet are very fashionable; they are worn even in the ball-room. One made of blue velvet, trimmed with a band of swan's-down, was exceedingly becoming.

Velvet head-dresses are also worn with two long barbes of tulle falling over the shoulders. Almost all the head-dresses of the Empress this winter have had this long veil attached to them. One of pink and black, with diamond ornaments on the black velvet; at the back a bow of narrow pink velvet, fastening to the back hair; barbes of tulle, spotted with silver.—*Le Follet.*

Mr. Samuel Morley, a wealthy Nonconformist, proposes to give one-third of the cost of twelve Dissenting places of worship, each to accommodate 500 persons, and to be at the expense of erecting six iron rooms in destitute localities, so as to prepare the way for permanent buildings.

The Dying Elk.—I have read of a man who had killed several elks in his time. One day, when out hunting, he came upon a couple, and took aim at the largest one. The ball struck the animal in a mortal part, but it did not immediately fall to the ground. Meanwhile, it kept getting weaker and weaker from loss of blood, which gushed forth from the wound, but still kept its eyes steadily fixed on the man, looking at him in a most reproachful manner. Moved with compassion, he stepped forward to put an end to the poor beast's sufferings with his "tollo-kniv," when just as he was going to give the *coup de grace*, the animal cast such a look at him that he was obliged to turn aside till it was dead. Meanwhile, the second elk, as is often the case, had returned to look after its companion. Here was a chance! Two elks in one day is not such a despicable bag to one gun. But the ordeal through which his nerves had recently passed had completely upset him, so that he could not find in his heart to shoot it. Then and there he made a solemn vow that as long as he lived he would never raise gun any more against an elk, for it seemed to him as if he had for all the world been guilty of murder.—*Sport in Norway.*

FARMING AND GARDENING.

The Potato Disease.

Mr. Alderman Mechi has published the following letter addressed to himself in the *Agricultural Gazette*:—

"'Old Times,' Peascod-street, Windsor,
January 19, 1864.

"Sir,—Knowing you to be one who farms upon chemical principles, I thought I would write to you and explain my ideas upon the potato disease, with a remedy for the same; if you think it worth your while to try it, you are welcome to the information. Although now a publican, I at one time was a chemist in a print works, with Mr. C. Swaisland, Crayford, Kent, and afterwards manager at Ravensbury Print Works, Mitcham, Surrey. You are, of course, aware that the potato contains about 25 per cent. of starch, the rest water and a few chemical salts. Now starch and sugar are composed of the same compounds—viz., oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon, but sugar contains more oxygen than starch. We know an apple growing upon a tree, as it becomes ripe, is sweeter than a green one, because it absorbs oxygen from the atmosphere, and converts the starch into sugar; so with the potato, we never have diseased potatoes until we have had a thunder-storm, with rain, &c. During a thunder-storm a peculiar gas termed ozone is formed, containing more oxygen than the atmosphere; being ponderous it descends, and having a peculiar chemical affinity for the potato, it runs down the haulm, and seizing upon the starch in the young potato, converts the starch into saccharine matter by the addition of oxygen; the rain and heat converts the earth into a kind of oven; the potato begins to ferment, and the saccharine matter works almost the same as when yeast is added to beer or wine—you, doubtless, have noticed that diseased potatoes when cooked are very much sweeter than good ones, which is of course owing to the sugar in them. To prevent the disease, myself and a friend (Mr. Marshall, 6, Brower-street, Golden-square, London) tried some experiments; we planted 12 rows, six were planted in the usual way, and six as follows:—Make a small hole in each potato, and firmly push a marrowfat pea into the incision; drop into the earth carefully, so that the pea may be upwards if possible; we let the 12 rows be in for a month longer than other people were leaving theirs in the ground, and when we dug them up, those rows planted with the pea were all good, with the exception of one root where the pea had fallen out and took root in the earth; the other rows were very nearly all diseased, and scarcely a good one amongst them. Now, in the first place, in planting this way the farmer gets two crops at once, and the pea, from deriving so much nutrition from the seed potato as it rots in the ground, produces a much finer crop of peas. I account for its curing the disease, simply that the pea contains more saccharine matter than the potato, and when after thunder the ozone enters into combination with the starch, that the pea robs the sugar from the bulb; and thereby fattens itself upon it. If you think it worth notice, perhaps you will give it a trial, and if it should prove correct, I should only be too glad for you to make it public.—H. Clement."

Flower Garden and Plant Houses.

During the present changeable weather great attention will be required in the way of maintaining proper temperatures, and the requisite amount of moisture in stoves and other plant houses. Spare no labour to keep up a gay appearance in conservatory and other show houses. Cut and train climbers, and let everything be kept scrupulously neat and clean.

If not already done, look over beds of crocuses and other bulbs to see that they are not thrown out of the ground by frost. Also inspect half-hardy plants that have been closely covered up, in order to see whether or not they are secure from injury, or suffering from confinement. As trying weather may yet be expected, every precaution should be taken to ward off its ill effects.

Auriculas.—On the first most favourable opportunity let these have as much air as possible; they dislike close confinement

Carnations and Picotees.—Draw the lights off those in the day time when there is no frost, but let them be put on again at night.

Pelargoniums.—These will now be growing pretty freely; therefore, whenever the weather is fine, let them have as much air as possible, consistent with the proper temperature. Fancy varieties may be kept a little warmer than ordinary kinds.

Roses.—Another batch of these may now be placed in heat to succeed those coming into bloom. Keep down fly by frequent fumigations, and the rose-maggot by hand-picking.

Tulips.—Place in heat pots full of bulbs to succeed those now in bloom, and see that the latter are not allowed to droop from want of water.

Hardy Fruit and Kitchen Garden.

Digging and trenching may still be carried on with activity. All wheeling will, as a matter of course, have been done during the late hard weather.

Apples.—Pruning and thinning of these must now be completed.

Pears.—The observation just made with reference to apples, also applies to these.

Peas.—If not already done, make a sowing, as soon as the ground is in a fit state to receive the seed, of some early variety, and of the Auvergne to succeed it, following up with some of the kinds mentioned last week.

Spinach.—This has suffered, we hear, in some places, from the late frosts. A sowing to supply early plants should therefore now be made.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

OUR MISCELLANY.

Question for Etymologists.—Do the "roots of words" produce "flowers of speech?"

Why are book-keepers like chickens? Because they have to scratch for a living.

The Head versus the Finger.—An Irishman, who was at the celebrated battle of Bull Run, was somewhat startled when the head of his companion on the left was taken off by a cannon ball. In a few minutes, however, a spent ball broke off the finger of his comrade on the other side. The latter threw down his gun and howled with pain, when the Irishman rushed up to him, exclaiming, "You old woman, stop cryin'! You are making more noise about it than the man who just lost his head."

Victor Emmanuel and his Friend the Pope.—Replying to a clerical deputation the other day, Victor Emmanuel is reported to have said—"I am aware a report is circulated of my being on ill terms [? excommunicated] with the Holy Father, from whom I nevertheless again received, during the past year, further proofs of affection on the occasion of my daughter's marriage. His Holiness has invited me to Rome. I will add that I am in correspondence with him, and that I have good hopes that the time is not far distant when all differences will disappear." The *Court Journal* asks, "By what process, and who of the two will be better satisfied?"

The Best Paymaster.—An eminent minister in Wales, hearing of a neighbour who followed his calling on the Lord's day, went and asked him why he broke the Sabbath. The man replied that he was driven to it, by finding it hard work to maintain his family. "Will you attend public worship," said the minister, "if I pay you a week-day's wages?" "Yes, most gladly," replied the poor man. He attended constantly, and received his pay. After some time, the minister forgot to send the money, and recollecting it, called upon the man and said, "I am in your debt." "No, sir," he replied, "you are not." "How so?" asked the minister; "I have not paid you of late." "True," said the man; "but I can now trust in God, for I have found that he can bless the work of six days for the support of my family just the same as seven." Ever afterward he kept the Sabbath, and found that in doing so, there was not only no loss, but great reward.

Thackeray's Ballad of "Little Billee."—

There were three sailors in Bristol city,
Who took a boat and went to sea.

But first with beef and captain's biscuit,
And pickled pork they loaded she.

There was guzzling Jack and gorging Jimmy,
And the youngest he was little Billee.

Now very soon, they were so greedy,
They didn't leave not one split pea.

Says guzzling Jack to gorging Jimmy,
"I am extremely hungaree."

Says gorging Jim to guzzling Jacky,
"We have no provision, so we must eat we."

Says guzzling Jack to gorging Jimmy,
"Oh, gorging Jim, what a fool you be!
There's little Bill is young and tender,
We're old and tough, so let's eat he."

"Oh, Bill, we're going to kill and eat you,
So undo the collar of your chemie."

When Bill received this infumation
He used his pocket-handkerchie.

"Oh, let me say my catchism,
As my poor mammy taught to me."

"Make haste, make haste," says guzzling Jacky,
While Jim pulled out his snickersnee.

So Bill went up the main-top-gallant mast
Where down he fell on his bended knee.

He scarce had come to the Twelfth Commandment,
When up he jumps, "There's land, I see.
There's Jerusalem and Madagascar,
And North and South Amerikee.
There's the British fleet a riding at anchor,
With Admiral Nelson, F.C.B."

So when they came to the Admiral's vessel
He hanged fat Jack and flogged Jimmee.

But as for little Bill, he made him
The captain of a seventy-three.

Chinese Sheep.—M. Eugene Simon has returned to Paris from China, after having accomplished a mission entrusted to him by the Emperor. He has brought with him a flock of Chinese sheep, called *ongti*, consisting of two rams and twenty-two ewes, remarkable for their fecundity. This flock is a present made by the French residents of Shanghai to the Zoological Society in the Bois de Boulogne. Fifty per cent. of these ewes produce lambs twice a year, and three at a birth; twenty per cent. produce two at a time twice a year. These sheep are of the middle size, and resemble the Southdown. Their wool, though long, is very inferior to that of the Merinos. It is proposed to send French sheep to Suez to be exchanged with masters of ships coming from China for Chinese sheep.

Lord Byron and the Clown.—When Lord Byron frequented the green-room of Drury-lane Theatre, he occasionally met Paulo, the clown, whom he guessed, from his name, to be an Italian. Paulo was English, not only to the backbone, but to the very roots of his tongue. Paulo was merely his *nom de théâtre*, or, as we read the other day in a theatrical journal, his *nom d'étage*. His lordship, thinking to please the interesting foreigner by the dulcet sounds of the language of his native land, addressed him in the purest accents of Tuscany. Paulo was amazed; and, wishing to reply to his noble interrogator, answered, "Yes, sir—I mean, my lord—very likely; just so." His lordship, perceiving his mistake, wished him "Good night!" and walked away. "Old un," said Paulo to his pantaloon, pointing to the retreating figure with the well-known black cloak, gracefully disposed to conceal the unfortunate foot, "see him?" "Yes." "Lord Byron—poet." "I know." Paulo placed his mouth close to the pantaloon's ear, and whispered, "Mad—as a hatter!"

Making a New Face.—Charles Bergen, a private in one of the New York regiments which left this city for the seat of war in 1861, was taken sick soon after reaching the field, when the surgeon of the command to which he was attached (an incompetent man) dosed him with calomel until he was completely salivated, and could scarcely move hand or foot. What seemed to be a cancerous formation made its appearance in his throat, and he was finally discharged from the army on the ground of physical debility. He came home to die, and in December, 1862, was admitted to the New York Hospital, where his case excited much interest. His upper jaw, lip, and one eye had been eaten away, and the cartilaginous portion of his nose terribly mutilated by the corrosive nature of the drug administered to him. Dr. Buck, one of the oldest surgeons attached to this excellent institution, at once stopped the doses of calomel, and set about making his patient a new face. Incisions were made in one cheek and a piece of flesh drawn over, from which a lip was formed. A piece of the frontal scalp was drawn down and a new nose formed. These pieces were carefully joined, and at the expiration of a few months the doctor had the pleasure of finding the parts firmly united. An artificial jaw was then formed from one source and a glass eye from another, and properly inserted. Bergen continued to improve rapidly, and with his new countenance can hardly be recognised by his friends. At present he is engaged as one of the corps of nurses attached to the institution. Shortly after his admission, Superintendent Roberts, of the hospital, had a plaster cast made of Bergen's face, which, when compared with his present features, cannot fail to excite wonder at the remarkable change effected.—*New York Tribune.*

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Recent Executions.—The evil of the scene which occurred at Newgate last week, if evil there was, as we should not deny, was in its incidents, not its essential nature. Suppose these men had all been strung to the yard-arm of a man-of-war by sentence of a naval court-martial, as, under other circumstances, they might have been, would any feeling have been excited except satisfaction that justice had been rapidly done? It is the performance of such tragedies before a crowd, the summoning of a vast mob to Newgate, the call to the filth of a great city, or say of a nation—for there are twice as many Londoners as Danes—to riot for a night, which alike disturbs the sacredness of the law and perverts judgment upon its action. That summons is wholly unnecessary. The difficulties which surround private executions are indeed great, but they cannot be irremovable, for they have in many countries been removed. Englishmen will never, while they retain common sense, entrust to a Government the power of execution, even under a judge's sentence, without witnesses save its own servants; but there is no need for that blunder. Suppose the murderer were hung in an inclosure set apart for that purpose, say the courtyard in Newgate, or, better still, a hall added specially to Newgate, the office performed, as it ought to be, with the solemnity of an act of religion, and only in presence of a clergyman, a surgeon, and a body of witnesses specially admitted to testify to identity, to the fact of death, and to the absence of all cruelty, surely the public certainty would be as great as at present. The suggestion that *the* jury should be present is a bad one, for we should never get a conviction in a capital case; but *a* jury might be empanelled for the purpose easily enough. Our only fear is that places upon it would be too eagerly sought, that foreign ministers, as in this case, would waive their nationality, and guardsmen press to the jury instead of to the Magpie and Stump. If the officers and such a jury signed the report, the public would be satisfied, while on criminals would descend a new terror, that of dying a violent death in solitude, unsupported by the feeling that a crowd will applaud their "courage." The public effect produced by sight of the punishment would be lost? It is lost now, except on the locality in which the execution actually takes place, and which is ruined by the selection. The tolling of the great bell would be as public a notice that crime was being expiated as all the present arrangements, and, from the absence of the brutal incidents which accompany English crowds, would be far more awe-inspiring. We should then be rid of the one real mischief which accompanies this mode of punishment, the periodical re-awakening among the worst class of City populations of that hunger for excitement, that evil curdle of the blood—evil because there *is* pleasure in it—which the sight of death inflicted while the spectator is in safety invariably produces, which is the argument against the arena, against exhibitions in which the performer risks his life, and consequently against executions done before a mob. Let the murderer pass from among men in silence, and amidst such witnesses only as shall secure that none *but* the murderer is so dismissed from earth. —*Spectator.*

The Paris Plot.—The announcement so confidently made when the news of this conspiracy first reached this country, that it had been concocted by the French police to serve political ends, is shown to have been false. There can be little reasonable doubt that a plot was formed to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon, and some of the parties implicated have just been tried before the French tribunals for the part they played in these infamous proceedings. The bill of indictment drawn up by the Procureur Imperial contained a clear and detailed statement of the charges brought against the accused, and they have been convicted upon the evidence adduced. Though Mazzini himself has denied any participation in the affair, yet in his communication on the subject, published in January, he admitted that he was acquainted with Greco, whom he described as "an enthusiastic patriot, who has taken an active part in the expeditions of 1860 and 1861 in the south of Italy, and, as such, was in relation with me." The bill of indictment declares that documents found in the possession of Greco are conclusive as to the complicity of Mazzini. Nor does the case against him depend solely on the authenticity of these documents. Some of the accused assert that Mazzini was the chief instigator of the plot. Of course, their accusations, like the documents, may prove to be altogether unworthy of credit, and, should this be satisfactorily established, the case against Mazzini will fall to the ground. Still, his own confession that he is personally acquainted with Greco, and his avowal that he regarded him as an enthusiastic patriot, although it is evident from his antecedents that his career had not been altogether free from crime, look suspicious. We hope that the matter has been cleared up in the course of the trial, because this is not the first time that Mazzini has been charged with having incited others to embark in desperate schemes of vengeance. Whether these charges are well or ill founded we cannot pretend to determine. It is, however, most desirable that their real character should be ascertained. Mazzini's unsupported denial of complicity is not of itself of much value. The bill of indictment read by the Procureur